

16,000 private sector steelmen strike but leaders are likely to obey Denning order

Iron and Steel Trades Confederation leaders are expected to rescind their strike order to private sector workers today, obeying Lord Denning's ruling.

But many strikers may stay out. Union lawyers have petitioned the Law Lords for leave to appeal against the ruling, which Mr Arthur Scargill attacked yesterday, saying it should be completely ignored. Other trade unionists in South Wales joined the striking steelmen in a day of protest.

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Poll shows Catholic support for divorce

By Clifford Longley
Religious Affairs Correspondent

In the first reliable measurement of grass-roots opinion in the Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales, a comprehensive survey has found important divergences from official teaching on moral matters, but a high level of orthodoxy on religious faith.

The survey, sponsored independently of the Roman Catholic Church, was published yesterday. It will be a main topic at the national pastoral congress of the church in Liverpool in May, not least because it draws attention to the crisis affecting Roman Catholic teaching on sex and marriage.

Probably the most surprising single figure in the whole survey was the support for divorce. Officially, the remarriage of divorced Catholics is not permitted: any such marriage is regarded as invalid and at least potentially sinful and Catholics in such marriages are, as a rule, barred from receiving Communion.

The survey shows emphatically that that policy is not a true reflection of the views of the Catholic population.

Two groups are described in the survey: those who attended Mass within the last week of the poll, and those who had been to Mass within the last year. Together the groups make up 79 per cent of the 4.4 million Roman Catholics in the population.

In the first group, about half (47 per cent) thought that a divorced person did nothing wrong if he or she remarried. More than a third of the same group, 37 per cent, thought Catholics should be allowed to divorce.

Among the second group, those views were held by 17 out of 20 Catholics; and in both cases those aged between 15 and 24 were far more liberal than older groups.

The only doctrinal issue on which practising Catholics departed from official teaching to any extent was over hell: only 58 per cent thought that evil people would be punished for eternity.

Even so, 81 per cent believed in the existence of hell, and a substantial section of the Catholic population appears therefore to take refuge in the adage: "The church requires us to believe in hell, but not that there are any people in it."

The sociologists responsible for the survey, Mr Michael Hornsby Smith and Dr Royce Lee, of Surrey University, say they have identified the attitudes of the most significant and distinctive religious minority in Britain. However, they feel that in some areas that distinctiveness is being eroded by the influence of general social values.

That factor is clearest on all matters concerning sex and marriage. Nearly 60 per cent of those attending Mass weekly, and 50 per cent of the Catholics still attached to the church, favour contraception.

Only just over half of the first group thought sexual intercourse was wrong, and only 15 per cent of the second; 65 per cent of the first, and 46 per cent of the second, thought the church could never approve of homosexual acts.

More than four out of five in the first group thought that the church should be allowed to perform marriages between homosexuals.

Record defence budget aimed at equipping US to go quickly to aid of allies if Soviet threat grows

From David Cross
Washington, Jan 28
President Carter's latest defence budget, a record \$142,700m (£52,863m) includes two new programmes designed to enable the United States to come quickly to the aid of friends and allies if the Soviet Union tries to take further advantage of its intervention in Afghanistan.

Mr Harold Brown, the Defence Secretary, told a press conference called here to discuss the budget for the 1981 financial year that he did not think there was a likelihood of imminent conflict with the Soviet Union.

"If we carry out sustained improvements (in American defence), I believe the Soviets will be more cautious in trying to throw their weight about," he said. "It is only if that is not deterred that the risk of war would rise to a dangerous condition."

Explaining the reasoning behind the increase in military expenditure, Mr Brown said that during the 1960s the United States had spent about 30 per cent more on defence than the Soviet Union, but in the 1970s this country had been spending about 30 per cent less.

The recent adverse trend had concerned the Administration "for a considerable time". Mr Brown said, as had Soviet attempts to take advantage of its increased military might. "We need to be able to come quickly and with decisive force to the aid of our friends and to deter or defeat our foes," he added.

The two new programmes unveiled in the budget include construction of the first two maritime prepositioning ships, to provide combat unit equipment and supplies for specially

organized marine amphibious brigades, as well as a new air lift aircraft, the HCX, for rapid deployment of combat forces. In addition, a 5.2 per cent real increase in the operations and maintenance sector of the budget will provide significant improvements in readiness by concluding the existing concentration on operational training and material maintenance.

The budget's other main objectives are efforts to ensure that American strategic nuclear forces will be "essentially equivalent" to those of the Soviet Union, that the military balance between Nato and the Warsaw Pact will continue to deter the outbreak of either conventional or nuclear war in Europe; and that the United States Navy will continue to be the most powerful on the seas.

Air Force missile procurement funding in 1981 is about 28 per cent higher in real terms than during the current financial year. The most important increases relate to Minuteman improvements and

full-scale production of the air-launched cruise missile.

Other improvements in the air and sea-based legs of the nuclear "triad" include \$1,500m worth of funds for the research and development of the MX mobile missile and substantial funds for continuing development of all types of cruise missile—including adaptation of the B52 aircraft to carry and launch them.

On the Navy side, procurement programmes provide for real growth in shipbuilding, although the actual funds allocated are less than this year's because of the construction of a huge \$2,500m aircraft carrier in the 1980 budget.

Seventeen new ships are to be built and two converted. They include the ninth Trident nuclear strategic missile submarine, an additional SSN688 class nuclear attack submarine, a third and fourth CG47 class Aegis cruiser, four additional FFG7 patrol frigates, five anti-submarine warfare ships, an amphibious landing ship, and a rescue and salvage ship.

For the Army, production of the new main battle tank, the XM1, will be stepped up. Spending on the tank, which is gradually replacing M60 series vehicles, will rise next year to \$1,100m from this year's \$744m. Research and development funds are being allocated to integrate the 120mm gun with this new tank.

One of the biggest increases is in spending on the military research and defence programme. A 13.2 per cent increase in real growth is designed to strengthen the technology base, modernize strategic forces "vigorously" and continue development of important tactical programmes.

General budget, page 6

Leave sought for plea to Law Lords

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

Leaders of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation are expected this afternoon to obey the Court of Appeal and rescind their strike instruction to private sector steelworkers, but many strikers and pickets may continue the industrial action.

Lawyers for the union yesterday submitted a petition to the Law Lords, asking for leave to appeal against Lord Denning's ruling that the ISITC executive must withdraw its strike call. The application will be considered on Thursday, and if it is granted, the appeal will be heard the day after.

While these legal moves were in train yesterday, an estimated 16,000 private sector steelworkers of the union defied the Court of Appeal and stopped work in 43 of the industry's 44 plants. ISITC officials believe that many will stay out unofficially even if the executive goes back on its attempt to spread the month-old state steel shutdown.

Shop stewards at Ductile Steel in the West Midlands sent a telegram to the union's general secretary, Mr William Sims, urging: "Keep up the fight, 100 per cent behind you." Similar messages of militancy came from workers at other private sector companies, where the strike instruction was originally thought to be deeply unpopular.

The Court of Appeal decision appears to have intensified feelings in the strike. There were emotional scenes in Cardiff, where miners, railwaymen, transport workers and other trade unionists joined the striking steelmen in a day of protest that brought South Wales to a virtual standstill.

TUC leaders, anxious to avert the threat of an unlimited shutdown of industry in the area from March 10 over the British Steel Corporation's closure plan, have now been told they can put their arguments about the financial crisis of the industry to senior Cabinet ministers on Thursday.

The TUC General Council has threatened "the most serious industrial consequences" if BSC does not open early consultations with the unions on "a reasonable accommodation of the separate dispute about redundancies in state steel this year."

Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, yesterday heard a progress report from union negotiators for craft and

general workers in British Steel, who have made considerable progress in talks with the corporation on the structure of a pay and productivity deal.

Leaders of the two main steel unions, the ISITC and the National Union of Blastfurnmen, have so far refused to take part in these negotiations because BSC's amended offer does not meet their pre-condition of "money on the table."

British Steel is understood to have withdrawn its insistence on a written guarantee that the unions accept a cut of 12,000 jobs in return for the initial 8 per cent of its pay offer. There is also a strong hint that an extra one or two per cent might be available under that heading.

But these negotiating developments are unlikely to cut much ice among the 21-member executive committee of the ISITC, which meets today to consider the Court of Appeal's injunction against the private sector strike.

It was being pointed out last night that the Denning injunction applies only to the 16 firms named on the application, whereas nearly three times that number were strikebound.

The court's order on picketing also applies only to the steelworkers' executive, not to local strike committees or to other unions that are officially involved in the strike. It is clear that the ISITC leaders will grudgingly obey the letter of the law, but turn a blind eye to unofficial measures.

Ronald Worsley writes from Sheffield: "South Yorkshire leaders of the four trade unions most involved in the steel strike said yesterday that they intend to continue picketing companies in the private sector and strike action until union demands are met, irrespective of any instruction from the national executive of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation."

Our Industrial Editor writes: "The effects of the strike, now entering its fifth week, are being felt by manufacturing industry."

Mr Michael Marshall, Under Secretary of State for Industry, said yesterday that in the two weeks ended January 12 and January 19 production in manufacturing industry had been reduced by between 2 and 3 per cent below expected levels.

Most of that, he added, was attributable to BSC's own lack of production.

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Mr Scargill was speaking after the Yorkshire and Lancashire branches of the National Union of Mineworkers, meeting in Barnsley, had decided to black steel deliveries to collieries and coal board workshops. The National Coal Board said: "We regret this attempt to involve the coal industry in a dispute to which neither the NUM nor the coal board are parties."

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Marchers winding their way along the Queen Street pedestrian precinct in Cardiff, during the steel strike rally.

Strike leader ready to go to prison

By Tim Jones and
Donald MacIntyre

Strikers attending the largest political rally Wales has witnessed since the war yesterday roared their defiance of the Government after being told by Mr William Sims, general secretary of the biggest steel union, that he and two colleagues could be imprisoned unless they obey the Court of Appeal decision to prevent the dispute spreading to the private sector.

During an emotional and highly-charged rally, Mr Sims broke into tears as he was welcomed at a hazy by one of the 100,000 men whose one-day strike paralysed ports, railways, mines and public transport throughout Wales.

Mr Sims said: "We have found out today there is a penal clause in the judgment. Unless my executive council meeting tomorrow afternoon lifts the direction to our membership then I, with my president and vice-president, will be imprisoned."

"If my executive makes this decision I will follow it gladly wherever it is. I have no intention of letting down my union or the working class in general." Asked afterwards whether he would go willingly to prison, Mr Sims said: "I am fighting for the working class and I do not care what happens."

He then spoke of the possibility of a general strike. "We are getting to a crunch situation. It is the last thing that people in responsible positions want, but if it is the last thing left to you, you take it. I will go back to the TUC and tell them very clearly that this is a battle we have got to fight to the death."

Mr Sims added: "The demonstration has shown that the working class has begun to realize that unless they can demonstrate and revolt against policies that are dragging us down and taking away our jobs, leaving us without hope or employment, we shall be a fourth-rate nation."

Mr Michael Foot, deputy leader of the Labour Party, was scornful of Lord Denning's Master of the Rolls, who had allowed the appeal decision. He asked: "Just who does he think he is?"

Paraphrasing *The Times* leading article, Mr Foot said: "Mr Sims has been given offence by a referee who has just changed the rules. May he be given offence by a referee who thinks he has the right to make the rules. All of us in this country have to understand we have to obey the law. We are not a lawless nation."

Continued on page 2, col 1

Ignore ruling by Court of Appeal, Mr Scargill says

By Nicholas Timmins

Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the Yorkshire miners, said yesterday that the Court of Appeal's ruling, banning the extension of the steel strike to the private sector, should be ignored.

The ruling was deplorable, he said. "Lord Denning (Master of the Rolls) has given a judgment which is in line with Conservative Party philosophy and trade union members involved in this dispute should recognize that."

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Civil Service action warning

The Civil and Public Services Association, the largest Civil Service union, is drawing up contingency plans to take industrial action if the Government does not pay in full salary increases proposed after a comparison exercise with private industry.

The 1980 Pay Research Unit investigation suggested increases of between 15 and 20 per cent.

Canton trial of strength
Canton dissidents have appealed to all Chinese political activists to unite against official repression. The appeal speaks of frenzied reprisals against the recently emerged human rights groups, and foresees a trial of strength lasting for maybe 10 years.

Saudi oil price rise
Saudi Arabia, in a surprise move, has increased the price of its crude oil by \$2 to \$26 a barrel. Oil companies said it could raise the price of four-star petrol by 2p a gallon.

Abortion Bill fear
The Abortion (Amendment) Bill might go through because many MPs did not realize its full implications, Mr William Hamilton, the Labour MP, said.

Students in Tehran reject criticism

Students occupying the American Embassy in Tehran have rejected a criticism by Mr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, Iran's president-elect, that they form a potential rival government. They say they approve of Mr Bani-Sadr's election but insist on their right to disagree with his views.

London docks threat
London could lose the India and Millwall Docks unless faster progress is made on improving productivity and a reduction in manpower. Mr Victor Pidge, the new chairman of the Port of London Authority, said.

Aircraft death fall: Industrialist's wife was absent-minded, psychiatrist tells inquest.

Paris: French fleet idea of European defence force outside Nato.

Salisbury: Mogenab dissidents return to Rhodesia.

Weather review: Rainfall in 1979 over the United Kingdom was higher than average.

Classified advertisements: Personal, pages 23, 24; Appointments, 21, 22; Salerooms, 22.

Murderer killed man in same cell

Vincent Smith, aged 20 a psychopath serving a life sentence for murder, killed a minor offender, also aged 20, who was in the same cell at Wormwood Scrubs.

Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk, MP, has tabled a Commons motion demanding an explanation.

Leader, page 13
Letters: On social service cuts, from the Bishop of Coventry, and Mr R. Hurst; on the Olympics, from Mr A. G. K. Brown, and Professor Ian Finlay.

Leaving articles: Re-armament; new President of Iran.

Features, pages 10, 12
Henry Sanhope on setting up health centres in Rhodesia; Jane Ellis on Russia's religious spring.

Sports, page 9
Football: Bolton Wanderers dismiss manager; FA Cup fifth round draw; Cricket: West Indies build on lead against Australia.

Arts, page 11
Christopher Ford interviews Peter Maxwell Davies, who has been committed to write his second symphony for the Boston Symphony Orchestra's centenary celebrations next year.

'Panorama' off

Industrial action by members of the Association of Broadcasting Staff last night prevented transmission of the BBC programme *Panorama* on which Mr Callaghan, Leader of the Opposition, was due to appear.

The move comes after the suspension of a number of association members for refusing to work on the new programme, *Newsnight*.

Continued on page 4, col 5

Thatcher warning to Moscow

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent

In the toughest speech she has yet made on the Russian invasion of Afghanistan, the Prime Minister warned Russian leaders yesterday that they would be gravely miscalculating the determination and unity of the West if they used their new position as a launching pad for further advances towards the oil-rich Gulf states.

They would be making another miscalculation, Mrs Margaret Thatcher said, if they thought that their efforts to split the alliance could succeed and she told the House of Commons links being forged in the face of the Russian threat with Pakistan, India, Iran, China and Turkey.

Pledging total support for the firm stand taken by President Carter, Mrs Thatcher opened a Commons debate on the crisis in south-west Asia with the reminder that the oil produced in the Gulf was the life blood of Western industrialized societies. If that flow was abruptly stopped there would be real doubt whether our societies could survive in their present form.

From the Conservative back benches Mr Edward Heath said the Commons was discussing the danger of stumbling into a third world war by mistake or misjudgment but he regretted the breaking off of contacts with the Soviet Union.

Leaving that he was not entirely enamoured of his leader's vigorous stand, the former Tory Prime Minister said that Mr Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, should have been allowed to come to Britain to hear the views of the Government and Opposition on Afghanistan.

He urged that Western strategy should concentrate on financial assistance to the non-aligned world on a scale that no European country was anywhere near approaching.

Parliamentary report, page 5

Wedding Day, 1940

Honeymoons in 1940

tended to be rather shorter than usual; and many of those who look forward to a ruby wedding anniversary this year surely have more than the customary reasons for celebration.

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HOME NEWS

Speaker intervenes as angry Labour MPs attack Lord Denning's steel dispute ruling

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

Labour MPs who claimed to represent trade union opinion expressed anger yesterday about the Court of Appeal's decision on the steel strike as about the views of Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, in particular.

But unlike Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the Yorkshire miners' who suggested that the ruling should be ignored, they indicated that they think, on the basis of the Express Newspapers v MacShane judgment in the Lords, that an appeal against the decision must succeed.

Mr George Thomas, Speaker of the Commons, intervened several times during question time in the House when Labour

MPs tried to criticize Lord Denning.

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, was answering questions about the steel strike, when Mr Martin Flannery, Labour MP for Sheffield, Hillsborough, and chairman of the Tribune group, said: "Lord Denning and his two accomplices have rigged up their own industrial relations Act."

The Speaker said that was out of order. It was wrong for MPs to impute any motives to judges acting in their judicial capacity, he said.

A stronger attack came from Mr Jeffrey Thomas, QC, a front-bench Opposition spokesman on legal affairs. He said that many people feared that Lord Denning's judgment had not helped

matters. "One effect will be to put down more explosive in an already dangerous minefield."

He added: "By making the law on these matters even more uncertain, he is bringing the law more and more into disrepute."

He asked Sir Ian Percival, Solicitor General, who was answering law officers' questions at that point, if he would address the Lord Chancellor "that though many of us have respected Lord Denning in the past, the time has come for him to retire."

But Mr Speaker said: "Such remarks should follow when there is a motion on the order paper. Judges are not to be criticized except when there is a substantive motion before the House."

Sir Ian said that serious consideration was being given to the tabling of amendments to the Employment Bill, now before the Commons, to strengthen the provisions on secondary picketing.

Mr Patrick McNair-Wilson, Conservative MP for New Forest, yesterday wrote to Sir Michael Havers, Attorney General, asking what action he proposed to take about Mr Scargill's remark that Lord Denning's judgment should be ignored.

Members of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers group of Labour MPs last night tabled a motion condemning the "ill considered and provocative judgment of Lord Denning and his colleagues".

Parliamentary report, page 5

Strike order defied at Sheerness plant

By Craig Seton

Sheerness Steel, on the Isle of Sheppey, among the most modern and successful steelworks in Britain, was one of the few private companies to continue working normally yesterday as its workforce defied union instructions to join the national steel strike.

More than 420 of the 815 employees belong to the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation (ISTC) and last week it was heading for a reluctant acquiescence to the union's instruction to make industrial action.

Lord Denning's decision in the Court of Appeal on Saturday to grant independent steel companies an injunction drew them back from the brink. Mr Dick Bask, branch secretary of the union at Sheerness, said last night: "The men are very happy to be working, but they are very confused."

"It is a very difficult situation. If you stand one side of the line you are in trouble with the executive, if you stand on the other side you are breaking the law. But in the light of the injunction the men felt they were under an obligation to go to work."

Apart from a token picket of six men from Rotherham one day last week, the national strike has bypassed Sheerness Steel, but a union representative in London claimed that its members at the works were being "terrorized" under pressure by the management to continue working. He declined to say how.

Mr Clancy Schueppert, chief executive of the company, was reluctant to discuss the attitude of the workforce yesterday but said the company had "excellent industrial relations" and believed in hard work.

R. W. Shakespeare writes from Manchester: Reluctant strikers at Manchester's largest private steel plant complained yesterday about having been "dragged into somebody else's dispute".

Manchester Steel, which is Norwegian-owned, was brought to a standstill as its 300 workers obeyed the ISTC strike instruction. The plant claims it is a "model" labour relations agreement and it negotiated a new pay deal for its workers just before Christmas.

Private sector action 'tightens noose around industry's neck'

From Arthur Osman
Birmingham

The West Midlands region of the Confederation of British Industry said yesterday: "The escalation of the dispute in the private sector has tightened the noose around the industry's neck. We are in no position to dispute the union claim that they have shut down all private firms here."

Mr Roy Bishop, divisional organizer of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation (ISTC), said: "We have closed down 25 private companies in the region. The number of workers out totals over 10,000 and they have been instructed to picket their firms."

"Nearly all staff members of the union joined the strike today but a few did go in at various plants. With the extra pickets we have, mainly from Teesside and Yorkshire, we have a picket fence at about 70 sites, including steel stockholders."

Three telegrams had been sent to London urging the national executive council "to stand firm and take on Denning". Several coachloads of strikers would arrive on London today with colleagues from other areas for a mass

lobby for this afternoon's meeting off the executive council.

Mr Bishop said that if the executive ordered obedience to the Court of Appeal's injunction "we would get a very mixed bag of reaction. There would be some who would conform but many others who would not."

Having spoken to many of the picket lines my judgment is that they are adamant they will take the fight on. They feel aggrieved that the injunction is unfair and unjust.

The view expressed is: "The Establishment is lining up against us."

Mr John Evans, a senior official of the CBI in Birmingham, said that the tightening of the noose "had further increased pressure on industrialists."

"But they are still determined to keep going and are putting no pressure on the British Steel Corporation to settle early. There is a great resolve among management for BSC to come to settlement as and when they think best."

Mr Stephen Rankin, CBI's regional director, said the dispute was being staged against a background of increasing understanding by West Midlands workers of the reality of

the country's economic plight.

"Many seem to have got the message that a succession of strikes bringing companies to their knees achieves nothing."

"They have appreciated that moderation in pay settlements, 8 to 11 per cent awards, means enhanced job security."

"But many of those who have accepted a moderate pay settlement are not sitting on the big fat cushion of taxpayers' money like the steel workers."

Frances Gibb writes from Coventry in the wake of the Court of Appeal ruling, strike leaders at Corby are planning to send out 500 flying pickets today, the largest number yet, to keep the steel strike going in the private sector.

"They are also sending a 50-strong delegation to lobby their union leaders in London, urging them to take every action possible to ensure that secondary picketing, particularly of private firms, continues."

Mr Michael Jackson, coordinator of the strike committee, said: "We want to show we are behind the executive council doing everything possible to keep up secondary picketing and to maintain the strike in the private sector."

Stockholders to seek legal advice on barring pickets

By Peter Hill
Industrial Editor

Britain's steel stockholders will seek legal advice today on whether the decision of the Court of Appeal on Saturday extends to the withdrawal of pickets from stockholders' yards.

Since the strike began on January 2 about 10 per cent of the 264 stockholders, members of the National Association of Steel Stockholders, have been picketed by the striking steel workers.

Mr Richard Rawlins, director of the association, said that the organization assumed that the executive council of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation this afternoon would formally ask its members to withdraw pickets from private sector works after the Court of Appeal injunction.

But the association will be seeking legal advice on what action to take if the pickets at stockholders are not withdrawn tomorrow.

Mr Rawlins said that much would depend on the legal interpretation of whether stockholders could be considered as an instrument in the furtherance of a trade dispute.

Pay discussions: Clarification of the confederation's attitude to further exploratory discussions on the pay impasse has been sought by the British Steel Corporation.

The corporation is anxious to ascertain whether the confederation and the NUB see any prospect of holding further talks with the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service or with the BSC.

Threat to export order for power station

By Clifford Webb
Midlands Industrial Correspondent

Britain's hopes of winning a substantial order from overseas for a power station are being jeopardized by the steel strike, it was claimed yesterday.

Mr Stephen Rankin, CBI's regional director in the west Midlands, said: "The contract could be placed with the overseas competitors if the strike continues."

Industry sources said that the project was almost certainly a 700 MW coal-fired power station to be built in Greece at an estimated cost of more than \$300m.

GEC Turbines, and Babcock Power Engineering, are members of a consortium preparing a tender.

Psychopath murdered a youth in same cell

From Christopher Thomas
Belfast

After three weeks of pre-arranged Ulster constitutional conference last night arrived at the crucial issue of power sharing in an atmosphere of severe tension between Roman Catholics and "loyalists".

While no one was talking of a breakdown, the conference adjourned after a full day's session with all sides agreed that the testing time had come for this latest attempt at political progress in Northern Ireland.

The official clamp on information is rapidly becoming a farce and in yet another attempt to paper over the cracks the Northern Ireland Office last night said merely that Mr Humphrey Atkins, the Secretary of State, had "emphasized the importance which the Government attached to arrangements to take account of the interests of both parts of the community".

The conference will resume today and will meet again tomorrow morning.

The Government's hopes of accord are still not high; the stakes are high, however, and the level of agreement, however little, and to build on it proposals that it hopes to put before Parliament in time for enactment by the summer recess.

The plan is for the establishment of a new structure for devolved government to be operational by the autumn.

The conference is working through a 14-point agenda, but on the important issues the social Democratic and Labour Party has maintained a sceptical silence while it awaited the vital issue of power sharing to be reached.

On the issue of power-sharing Mr Atkins told the conference that it was not being invited to consider the arrangements of the old Stormont before 1972 or a revival of the power-sharing executive of 1974.

Kidnap order: A Belfast businessman kidnapped by four armed men in the Irish Republic told yesterday how he ran for his life after pushing away a gun pointed at his head and feeling the heat from the bullet. He hid in frozen snow in a dense forest (the Press Association reports).

"I was relieved to be still alive. I had accepted that I was a dead man," Mr John Foster, aged 48, of Melkford Drive, Donaghadee, Belfast, said.

His six-hour ordeal began on Sunday when he was abducted from a group at an equestrian event in Glaslough, co. Monaghan, where he was on holiday.

Police believe the kidnapers, thought to be Provisional IRA, members mistook him for an RUC man when he came away.

Mr Foster said last night: "I was bundled into a car. I thought it was a joke. I soon saw it was not and became very afraid."

After a long drive the car stopped at a forest clearing covered with frozen snow. He was taken out and his shoes removed and he was asked if he was a policeman, which he denied. "I was hit in the tummy with the gun and punched on the jaw."

"A gun was produced and it went 'click.' One of the men put the gun to his forehead. 'I knew it was going to fire. I deflected his arm, a shot was fired and I felt the heat as it passed my head,' Mr Foster said.

"As the bullet went behind me I went after it. I ran and hid." Six hours later he was found by the Garda.

Testing time reached at Ulster conference

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The plan is for the establishment of a new structure for devolved government to be operational by the autumn.

The conference is working through a 14-point agenda, but on the important issues the social Democratic and Labour Party has maintained a sceptical silence while it awaited the vital issue of power sharing to be reached.

On the issue of power-sharing Mr Atkins told the conference that it was not being invited to consider the arrangements of the old Stormont before 1972 or a revival of the power-sharing executive of 1974.

Kidnap order: A Belfast businessman kidnapped by four armed men in the Irish Republic told yesterday how he ran for his life after pushing away a gun pointed at his head and feeling the heat from the bullet. He hid in frozen snow in a dense forest (the Press Association reports).

"I was relieved to be still alive. I had accepted that I was a dead man," Mr John Foster, aged 48, of Melkford Drive, Donaghadee, Belfast, said.

His six-hour ordeal began on Sunday when he was abducted from a group at an equestrian event in Glaslough, co. Monaghan, where he was on holiday.

Police believe the kidnapers, thought to be Provisional IRA, members mistook him for an RUC man when he came away.

Mr Foster said last night: "I was bundled into a car. I thought it was a joke. I soon saw it was not and became very afraid."

After a long drive the car stopped at a forest clearing covered with frozen snow. He was taken out and his shoes removed and he was asked if he was a policeman, which he denied. "I was hit in the tummy with the gun and punched on the jaw."

"A gun was produced and it went 'click.' One of the men put the gun to his forehead. 'I knew it was going to fire. I deflected his arm, a shot was fired and I felt the heat as it passed my head,' Mr Foster said.

"As the bullet went behind me I went after it. I ran and hid." Six hours later he was found by the Garda.

Cyclists plan big protest in London over BR ban

By A Staff Reporter

A "big demonstration of cyclists is planned for London next month after a meeting between 'three cycling groups and British Rail at which the latter refused to make any serious concession over its ban on cyclists on peak-hour trains."

Mr Peter Haydon, passenger manager of British Rail, told cycling lobby representatives at the meeting that he was willing to allow the seven divisional managers in the regions discretion about whether they allowed bicycles on commuter trains.

The rider was added, however, that bicycles would not be allowed on the new rolling stock, which had no storage space for them.

British Rail is to meet Mr Anthony Steen, Conservative MP for Waverley, chairman of the All-Party Parliamentary Cycle Group, today to discuss the issue, and have agreed to meet cyclists' representatives again at the end of February.

British Rail introduced the ban on January 2 because, it said, cycles obstructed passengers on platforms and delayed trains because of the time needed to put them into the guard's van.

St Pancras crash: Twenty-two people were injured when a crowded commuter train from Bedford crashed into the buffers at St Pancras station, in London, in the peak hour yesterday morning (Michael Bailey writes).

When the train was taken to hospital with superficial injuries but only one, Dr E. Hertogs, of St Albans, was detained for examination.

Soldier in clash at Sinn Fein rally identified

By David Felton
Labour Reporter

A soldier in the uniform of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers who was seen in television news broadcast on Sunday night shouting abuse at Sinn Fein demonstrators in Birmingham was identified yesterday as Stuart Smith-Bain, aged 19, of his Green, Birmingham.

His sister, Linda, aged 22, received leg injuries in the Birmingham public house bombings in 1974.

His father said that he "expected to be carpeted by his commanding officer."

'Absent-minded' theory on woman in plane fall

By David Felton
Labour Reporter

Mrs Isabel Ribbalt, a businesswoman's wife, may have opened an aircraft door and plunged more than 800ft to her death in a moment of absent-mindedness, her psychiatrist told an inquest jury at St Albans, Hertfordshire.

Dr Jonathan Gould, a consultant psychiatrist, who treated her in the weeks before her death on December 2, said he believed she suffered from a condition called hysterical fugue, in which she could have carried out a sequence of events without being aware of what she was doing.

Dr Arnold Mendoza, the coroner, asked Dr Gould: "Would it be likely that Mrs Ribbalt could leave her seat and go to a door that she had never seen before going to the door again without knowing what she was doing?"

Dr Gould replied: "I think it could be so without her fully appreciating it."

Mrs Ribbalt, aged 42, was returning from St Martin's her husband's company aircraft.

a twin-engine Beechcraft when she fell out of a doorway. The aircraft was a few minutes from landing at Leamington airport near Warwick.

Group Captain Anthony Bask, a pathologist, said Mrs Ribbalt died instantaneously from severe multiple injuries including skull fractures.

Mr John Ribbalt, aged 44, company chairman of York Ter race, said that the day before his wife died they visited their sons' school near Heath row airport before flying to S. Moritz.

Dr Ernest Petrie, her doctor, said Mrs Ribbalt suffered from undue anxiety and depression. But, just before she came to a private psychiatric clinic at St Andrew's Hospital Northampton.

Dr Petrie said: "She became very anxious. She would run out into the street, prevent anyone taking incoming telephone calls, and prevent outgoing calls."

The jury returned an open verdict.

Rally becomes attack on Government policies

Continued from page 1

all subject to the law: trade unionists and judges."

Mr Foot said that Lord Denning's judgment appeared to be outside the law as it now stands because it was being suggested that Parliament should pass new legislation in line with the Court of Appeal.

"Nothing could be more dangerous than to drag the law and the judges into this dispute, but if it does happen and it has happened, and there is confusion, it is not because of what Parliament has done but because of what the judges have said. They have to learn to obey

the law in this country," he said.

The country faced a financial and political crisis of the first order. To massive cheers Mr Foot added: "Let us carry forward this campaign to industrial and political victory for our people, our workers, and for the whole country."

Although the strike had been called specifically to protest against the British Steel Corporation's plans for importing coking coal, the 15,000 strikers who marched through Cardiff turned it into a wider attack against the Government's economic and industrial policies.

The one-day action was a compromise by the Welsh union leaders who had postponed plans for an all-out stoppage until March 10 after promises of firm action by the TUC against the BSC proposals.

But Mr Emyln Williams, president of the South Wales miners said his union might act before March: "As far as we are concerned we are reserving our options because if the steelworkers are defeated the working class movement in this country is broken."

Mr George Wright, general secretary of the Wales TUC, said: "We will not take 50,000

redundancies in three months' time from any Government, let alone one which has been promoting privilege since coming to office."

More than 100,000 workers were on strike in the region, although Mr Wright estimated that 250,000 took part in some form of limited protest. More than 10,000 railwaymen and dockers stopped work, closing five state-owned ports and halting rail services.

The march through Cardiff city centre was headed by the Markham Colliery band, part of the contingent of 30,000 miners on strike.

Peers criticize EEC plan to control advertising

By Our Consumer Affairs Correspondent

The House of Lords Select Committee on the European Communities, in a report published today, severely criticizes European Commission proposals to control misleading and unfair advertising.

The committee, which relied heavily in the preparation of its report on the evidence of advertising industry interests, complains that the commission's draft directive will not accommodate the United Kingdom's self-regulatory system of advertising control.

The draft directive was revised last year to permit regulation by administrative authorities "that was done largely to meet British objections and on the presumption that the Office of Fair Trading would be the authority with statutory power to regulate advertising in Britain."

The select committee, which did not seek evidence from the Office of Fair Trading, expresses concern that the Advertising Standards Authority, which has no formal powers and is funded by the advertising industry, will not qualify as an administrative authority.

The British Amateur Athletics Board announced that it was wholeheartedly behind athletes in their desire to go to Moscow.

Mr David Shaw, secretary of the board, said it regretted that sportsmen were being faced with such a dilemma, but took the view that the present that they should be free to take part.

The dilemma also appears to

Majority want Olympics moved

By a Staff Reporter

British athletes were yesterday given the full support of their official body to take part in the controversial Moscow Olympics this summer. But a Marplan poll published last night shows public opinion marginally in favour of moving the games to an alternative venue.

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Kidney unit can carry out 16 transplants

By a Staff Reporter

The south London kidney transplant unit which had to suspend its transplant programme because of shortage of funds was told yesterday that it could start work again with money from the British Kidney Patients Association.

The association was willing to provide £5,000 a transplant, and the unit at Dulwich Hospital, which had the unit, to carry out 16 transplants before the end of the financial year.

The commissioners appointed by the Government to run the Lambert, Southwark, and Lewisham Area Health Authority had told the unit at Christmas that it must stop work because it had spent twice its £200,000 budget.

The association had immediately offered to fund the unit until April, but the commissioners felt it could not accept the offer until it had worked out the financial implications for next year.

One reason why the unit overspent its budget was because it was using a drug, Pressimmune, which cost £5,000 a patient a year, details of which were disclosed in The Times yesterday.

Low pressure to the W. of the British Isles will lead to a S. air stream over much of the United Kingdom, with a trough of low pressure moving N across Scotland, and a high pressure ridge will approach the W. later.

Forecasts for 6 am to midnight: London, SE, central S. England: Dry, early mist clearing; sunny intervals; wind S, light to moderate; max temp 8°C (46°F).

East Anglia, Midlands: Dry, dry, mist clearing, rather cloudy; bright or sunny intervals in places; wind S, light to moderate; max temp 6°C to 8°C (43°F to 46°F).

Wrestlers' decision: Britain is to send a team of wrestlers to the Moscow Olympics, but it will boycott the opening and closing ceremonies, the British Amateur Wrestling Association said yesterday (the Press Association reports).

Weather forecast and recordings

NOON TODAY: Pressure is shown in millions FRONTS Warm Cold Occluded

Clouds are on an increasing scale

Today

Sun rises: 7.45 am Sun sets: 4.43 pm

Moon rises: 5.36 pm Moon sets: 2.30 pm

Full moon: February 1

Lighting up: 5.13 pm to 7.13 pm

High water: London Bridge, 11.58 am

6.5m, Avonmouth, 5.5 am

11.4m, 5.41 pm, 11.8m, Dover, 9.3 am

5.9m, 9.39 pm, 6.0m, Hull, 4.4 am, 6.4m, 4.31 pm

6.5m, Liverpool, 9.24 am, 8.3m, 9.48 pm, 8.4m

11m, 9.30m

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Sea passages: S. North Sea. Strait of Dover: Wind mainly S. moderate; sea fresh; sea slight moderate.

HOME NEWS

Union plans disruption if wage rises are not paid

By Paul Routledge

Labour Editor

The largest Civil Service union is drawing up contingency plans to take industrial action if the Government does not pay in full salary increases proposed after a comparison exercise with private industry.

In a circular to his 220,000 members, Mr Kenneth Thomas, general secretary of the Civil Service Public Services Association, gives a warning of "the spectre of another area of arbitrary interference in our pay bargaining."

Mr Thomas says that his union is already working on a programme of disruption. There was widespread dislocation in the Civil Service last spring over the outgoing Labour government's incomes policy when key staff, particularly computer operators, were brought out on strike.

CPA leaders appear to be preparing for a similar conflict over implementation of 15-20 per cent pay increases suggested by the 1980 Pay Research Unit (PRU).

"The concern of the whole Civil Service trade union movement is whether the Government will want, in one way or another, to restrict the increases for pay due to us under PRU, either by cash limits or by some totally artificial enhancement of the value of our pensions or so-called job security," Mr Thomas says in the letter.

Mr Thomas says he deplores their announced intention of imposing such cash limits upon the basis of employers' interpretation of PRU evidence. We also declare that we will resist any attempt to interfere with our pension scheme, as well as any attempt to impose staging of the settlement.

The union has bolstered its industrial action fund by transferring £500,000 into it, and another ominous sign is the Civil Service executive's insistence that all sections of the CPA will be involved if last year's disruption is repeated.

Members in the sensitive ministries dealing with the public, Employment and Health and Social Security, were excluded from the last bout of strikes. This time there would be no internal pressure to involve services to the public as well as activity crucial to the operation of government.

Minister's warning: Mr Paul Channon, Minister of State at the Civil Service Department, said yesterday that senior civil servants in top Whitehall posts would not be spared in cuts being made in Civil Service manpower (Peter Hennessy writes).

Mr Channon, in evidence to the Commons Select Committee on the Treasury Civil Service, said that 11,000 of the 39,000 jobs due to disappear over the next three years would be saved by transferring work to the private sector.

Michael Kagan, aged 28, son of Lord Kagan, was discharged at Leeds Magistrates' Court yesterday after Mr Ian Boyd, the Hull stipendiary magistrate, ruled there was no prima facie case against him to go for trial.

But Mr Boyd, who has been hearing committal proceedings which have lasted 16 days, ruled that there was a case to go for trial against Lady Kagan, three other individual defendants and two companies.

Mr Kagan, of Barkisland Hall, Barkisland, near Halifax, West Yorkshire, had been charged with conspiracy to defraud in connection with a scheme to export denim cloth abroad and retain the profits abroad, and also with dishonestly falsifying an invoice required for an accounting purpose.

The other defendants are Lady Kagan, aged 54, of Fitch Road, Huddersfield; Raymond Kennedy, aged 53, of Wedgewood Drive, Leeds; Valdemar Ginsburg and his wife, Ibolya, of Broomfield, Hullen Edge, Elland, West Yorkshire; Cellofoam (Yorkshire) Ltd, of Rastick, West Yorkshire; and Kagan Textiles Ltd, of Elland.

They were all committed for trial charged with conspiracy to defraud the Crown over the proceeds from denim cloth exports. Lady Kagan, Mr Kennedy, Mrs Ginsburg and Cellofoam (Yorkshire) Ltd were also committed on three charges of being concerned in exporting denim cloth from Britain to Belgium with intent to evade export prohibitions.

Valdemar Ginsburg was committed on one of those charges but Mr Boyd ruled that there was no case against him on the other two and they were dismissed.

Mr Kennedy, the Ginsburgs and the two companies were also committed on a charge of falsifying documents relating to exports.

Bail for Lady Kagan, the Ginsburgs and Mr Kennedy was continued.

Two questioned on Conflat death

Two men were still being questioned by detectives yesterday in connection with the murder of Maxwell Conflat, aged 26, a homosexual prostitute, as police frogmen again searched a lake near East Grinstead, Sussex.

It was also disclosed last night that the Director of Public Prosecutions is advising Scotland Yard on new inquiries into the murder eight years ago, which led to a legal tangle.

Union 'villains' blamed for destroying company

From Our Correspondent

Nottingham

Guy Wayne, aged 71, the former managing director of two magazines, attacked trade unions in his address to a jury at Nottingham Crown Court yesterday.

He appeared in his own defence and said that his magazine company was profitable until 1975, when it was affected by a series of strikes and industrial action. He blamed union "villains" for destroying his company and said the circulation of the Nottingham Observer plunged from 10,000 a month to just over 2,000.

Mr Wayne, of Colston Bassett Hall, near Nottingham, said: "Fleet Street is suffering from the same anarchy. When you get a bolshie works it is impossible to run a business. These unions are ruining the whole

'Mandarins' attacked by Mr Benn as menace to democracy

By George Clark

Political Correspondent

The power, influence and authority of the senior members of the Civil Service, especially now that Britain was a member of the EEC, had grown to such an extent as to create the embryo of a corporate state, Mr Wedgwood Benn, the former Labour Cabinet minister, said last night.

Lecturing at Chatham House, London, on the role of the Civil Service, under the auspices of the Royal Institute of Public Administration, Mr Benn was taking part in a campaign against civil servants directly to the people he had attacked in three speeches since October.

At the Labour Party conference last year he alleged that top civil servants had a programme for the United Kingdom which they tried to carry out by ministers, no matter what party was in power.

Last night he went further: he thought that "Whitehall policies" put forward by governments of both parties for the last twenty years, had accompanied a steady decline in Britain's fortunes, "now accelerating into a near-catastrophic collapse of our industrial base."

Mr Benn said that the emergence of a Civil Service which was the embryo of a corporate state would threaten democracy.

"Major constitutional reforms are urgently needed to restore the authority of the House of Commons, to secure effective ministerial control over the Civil Service, and to move towards a more constitutional type of premiership," he said.

When senior civil servants saw a new government coming to power with a policy that went outside their consensus, plans were laid that would divert ministerial energies into channels that did not disturb the even flow of established Whitehall policy.

"It is not coincidence that governments of both parties appear to end up with policies very similar to each other and which are, in every case, a great deal more acceptable to Whitehall than were the manifestos upon which parties were originally elected," he said.

There was also now the EEC, a mandarin's paradise. "The considered judgment of many about the role of most civil servants, but particularly those in the Foreign Office, is that in a deep sense many, if not most of them, are transferring their real allegiance from the United Kingdom to the European Community," Mr Benn said.

To reopen the campaign for democracy, it was necessary to consider seriously a freedom of information Act; stronger parliamentary control; a more constitutional premiership; more ministerial control over the Civil Service; abolition of patronage; and an amendment to the European Communities Act to restore full power to the elected House of Commons.

The February issue of History Today examines the historical background to the resurgence of Islam—the motive force in today's arc of crisis.

Hamid Enayat, Professor of Political Philosophy at Tehran University, asks why it is happening now and how it differs from previous resurgences and Leila Ahmed, sometime Associate Professor at the United Arab Emirates University looks at the 'pure' Islam to which leaders of the resurgence seek to return.

Both articles are essential reading for anyone seeking to understand current events in the tumultuous arc of Morocco to Afghanistan.

Other awards were: Mr Robert Cox, of the Sunday Express, Editor of the Year; Mr Colin G. Brown, of the Sunday Express, Commentator of the Year; Mr Bob Rimmer, of the Sunday Express, Reviewer of the Year; Mr Brian McAllister, of the Sunday Express, Editor of the Year; Mr Barry Award, of the Sunday Express, Editor of the Year; Mr Barry Award, of the Sunday Express, Editor of the Year; Mr Barry Award, of the Sunday Express, Editor of the Year.

£158,000 school fire charge

A former pupil of Uppingham School, accused of causing fire damage estimated at £158,000 at the public school, appeared before magistrates yesterday.

The youth, aged 16, is charged with starting a fire in a house-master's study.

The case was adjourned for a month pending preparations for a commitment to the crown court at Leicester. The youth was remanded on bail on condition that he lives with his grandparents.

Two questioned on Conflat death

Two men were still being questioned by detectives yesterday in connection with the murder of Maxwell Conflat, aged 26, a homosexual prostitute, as police frogmen again searched a lake near East Grinstead, Sussex.

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Whitehall brief: Two thirds of first-division staff want to operate as union

Senior civil servants suffer mild schizophrenia

By Peter Hennessy

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Mr George Marshall (left) and Mr John Ward in Whitehall.

Photograph by John Manning

The paper prepared for next

month's meeting declares

against strike action except as

a weapon of last resort in ex-

treme circumstances. The pos-

sibility of concluding a no-

strike agreement with the

Government is mentioned.

Great emphasis is placed on

consulting the membership be-

fore industrial action of any

kind is taken.

Mr George Marshall, acting-

general secretary of the FDA

since Mr Norman Ellis left for

the British Medical Association

in December 1978, is open

about the division of opinion

among his members. He says

that two thirds want to operate

as a trade union. Generally they

are the economists, the statis-

ticians and the younger civil

servants. The difficulty arises

with "the old administrative-

class people" at the summit of

Whitehall.

On Friday, Mr Marshall, aged

63, a veteran of the Diplomatic

Service, will revert to his for-

mer post as deputy general

secretary to make way for Mr

John Ward, aged 37, general

secretary of the Bank of

England Staff Organization, who

was appointed to the FDA job

late last year. Mr Ward thinks

that quips about his new

employers' "mild schizophre-

nia" are a journalist's ex-

aggeration and complains that

the world at large does not

understand or value them

sufficiently.

Asked to name the achieve-

ments he would like to have

under his belt when The Times

asks for a progress report on

his stewardship in five years,

he lists three:

1. A greater appreciation of the

role of senior civil servants.

2. The continuation of the "fair

comparison" method of paying

civil servants, with the findings

of the pay research system

implemented in full, and

greater participation by the

FDA in the processes of the

Top Salaries Review Body.

3. The talent that exists within

the FDA harnessed, through its

membership of the Trades

Union Congress, to securing

better industrial relations

generally.

In the meantime, the FDA

with a newly acquired seat on

the TUC's public services com-

mittee, will have to find ways

of living with any "days of

action" mounted against the

very trade union reform legis-

lation its members have helped

ministers to prepare.

Campaign to improve widows' lot is launched

By Penny Symon

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HOME NEWS

Abortion Bill's full implications are not realized, MP says

By Annabel Ferriman
The Abortion (Amendment) Bill might go through Parliament because many MPs did not realize its full implications, Mr William Hamilton, Labour MP for Fife, Central, said yesterday.

Many MPs were supporting the Bill because they were in favour of reducing the time limit for abortions from the present 28 weeks, but they did not understand what other effects it would have, Mr Hamilton said.

The Bill, which was opposed by the main medical organizations, including the British Medical Association and the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, would have the effect of reducing the number of abortions by three-quarters and destroying the abortion charities which carried out a third of all abortions.

An early day motion signed by 151 MPs had been put down in the Commons on Friday and more were expected to sign it, Mr Hamilton said.

The motion points out that while the Bill proposed to change the criteria for abortion, Mr Gerard Vaughan, Minister of State for Health, said last July that the professions involved did not believe that the criteria should be changed.

Mr Hamilton and the four other MPs who opposed the Bill in committee yesterday tabled 40 amendments to it. Other amendments are expected from Mrs Renée Short, Labour MP for Wolverhampton, North-East, and Mr David Steel, leader of the Liberal Party.

The Bill is due to come back to the floor of the House for its report stage on February 8 and is at the top of the order paper for next Friday. If no other private member's Bill comes out of committee stage during February it could be discussed on several subsequent Fridays.

Mr Hamilton and his colleagues propose in their amendments that the time limit for abortion should be raised from the 20 weeks of pregnancy now laid down in the Bill to 24 weeks, the limit supported by most of the medical organizations.

They also propose that the Secretary of State for Social Services should have the same control over the abortion charities as he has given over the private abortion clinics by the Abortion Act, 1967, to reassure the public that no abuses were taking place.

The clause of the Bill that deals with charities aims to break the financial link between the abortion clinics and the referral agency, after the latter has been found guilty of those counselling a pregnant woman have no financial interest in her having an abortion.

The clause states that if any member of staff leaves a clinic to work for any organization that counsels pregnant women, that clinic shall lose its licence.

Mrs Diane Munday, of the British Pregnancy Advisory Service, said that the clause was against natural justice because it made clinics responsible for the future actions of their employees.

Mr Hamilton said that some supporters of the Abortion (Amendment) Bill were filibustering in the committee stage of the compulsory seat belts Bill to prevent it from coming back to the floor of the House for its report stage and thus competing for time with the abortion Bill.

Mr Ian Mikardo, Labour MP for Tower Hamlets, Bethnal Green and Bow, said that as a result of that filibuster many fewer private members' Bills were likely to be passed this session than in previous sessions.

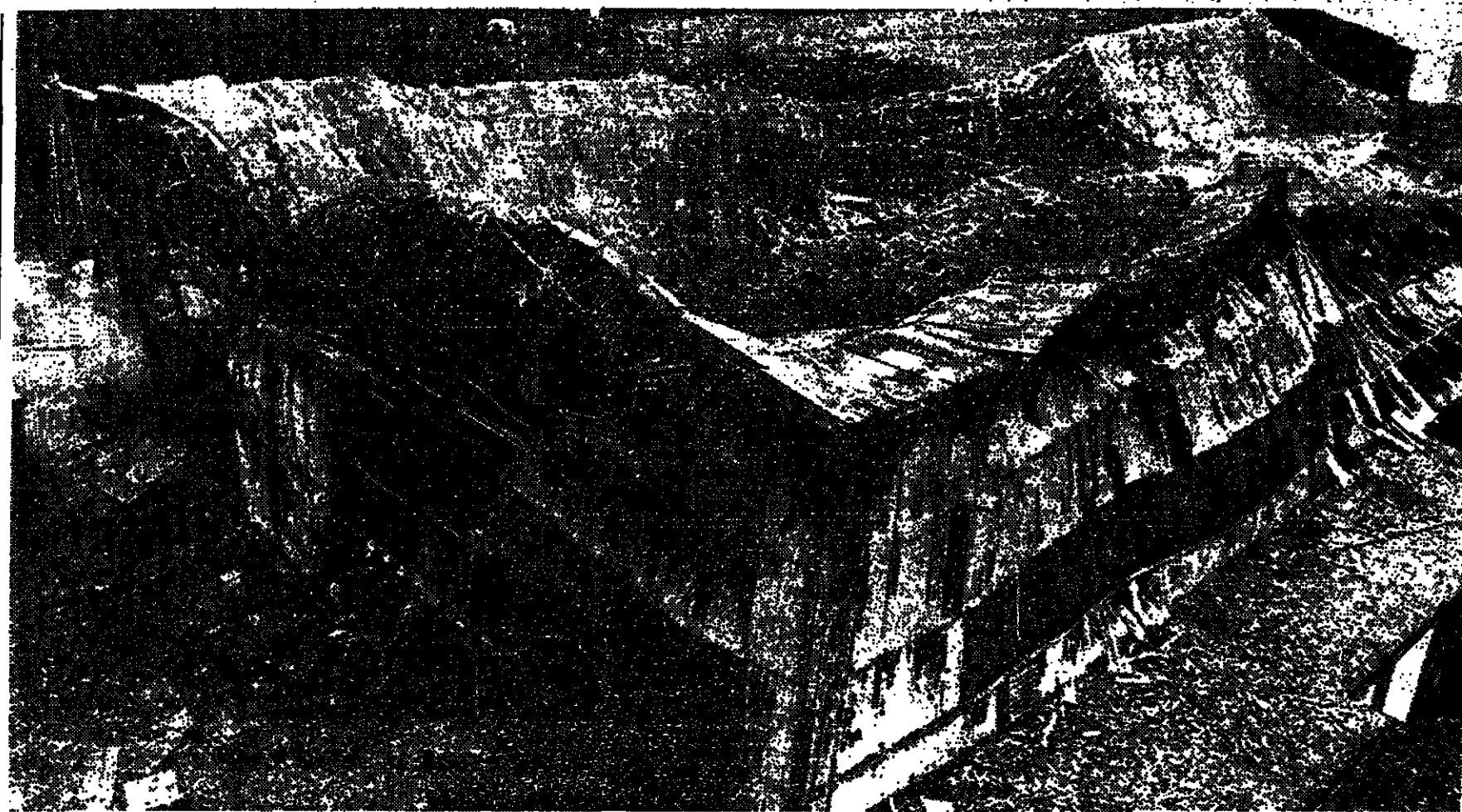
The organization, Doctors in Defence of the 1967 Abortion Act, which has more than 2,000 members, has written to every MP expressing its opposition to the Bill, saying that it would require too much doubt and confusion for doctors and patients that more late abortions would result instead of fewer.

Five church leaders from north-east Scotland have formed a delegation and are to lobby MPs at the Commons today to oppose the Bill. They are the Rev James F. Scott, Moderator of the Presbytery of Aberdeen, the Right Rev George Sessford, Episcopal Bishop of Moray, Ross and Caithness, the Right Rev James Rennie, Roman Catholic Bishop of Aberdeen, Canon James Alexander, Convener of the Episcopal Social Service Board, and the Rev Graham Bruce, Convener of the Public Relations Committee of the United Free Church.

Contraceptive pill denial: Doctors strongly denied yesterday that they were breaking the law by giving the contraceptive pill to young girls (the Press Association reports). Dr Vaughan said on Sunday: "Sexual relations with a girl under 16 are illegal and to supply her with contraceptives is condoning an illegal act."

Dr Michael Thomas, chairman of the British Medical Association's central ethical committee, said: "Our legal advice is that the doctor is acting in good faith in the best interests of the patient he would not be an accessory before the fact."

"It depends what the minister is proposing. If he is going to put a Bill through Parliament, after the law has been changed, then it is another thing. If he is stating his opinion or that of his party, that is another."



All that is left of British Aerospace's Concorde plant at Weybridge, Surrey, after an outbreak of fire. Damage was estimated at £20m. Spares for 11 aircraft, including the Concorde, were destroyed. Police were waiting yesterday for firemen to damp down the wreckage before searching for the cause of the outbreak.

Mr Prior suggests an 'Open Tech' Education Bill

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

The establishment of an "Open Tech", using the distance-learning techniques of the Open University, to provide part-time courses for adults at technician level was suggested yesterday by Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment.

Mr Prior agreed that the Conservative Party had been very sceptical about the merits of the Open University when it was first set up in 1969; but he felt that it had settled down and improved, and that it was now performing an important task.

If the Open University had not existed, 39,000 fewer people would have been able to realize their ambition to obtain a university degree. One in 16 of all United Kingdom graduates now came through the Open University, he said.

Speaking at a press conference to announce the new graduates from the Open University, Mr Prior said that the university had enriched society. It had shown what could be achieved through a combination of new technology and old-fashioned teaching in the ideals of education.

The future of Britain's economy depended on the ability of British industry to compete in international markets; that put a premium on people with scientific, engineering and technical qualifications.

The success of the Open University in providing primarily graduate-level education had made many people wonder whether the same principles could be applied to technical education; technicians were also in great demand. The idea, he emphasized, was still in its infancy.

There were practical difficulties in applying distance learning techniques to technical education. But many experiments were going on, some of which might solve the difficulties of distance learning for skills.

The determination, motivation and ability of mature students such as those at the Open University should be given every encouragement. He appealed to industry and business to consider how they could help by paying fees (now £129 for a one-credit course and one week at summer school), by giving summer school leave, or by recognizing achievement through promotion.

Mr Prior held out no hope of the Government giving financial assistance to Open University students, whether in the form of grants or loans. Like all part-timers, Open University students are not eligible for the mandatory grant given to full-time undergraduates. Local authorities are severely reducing the number of discretionary awards for students.

Law change on nursery education unlikely

By Our Education Correspondent

The Government is unlikely to change the law to allow local authorities to charge parents for nursery education. Advice from officials suggests that the revenue would be minimal and not worth the legislative upheaval and public anger produced.

Estimates drawn up by the Department of Education and Science indicate that the new charges would bring in no more than about 5 per cent to 10 per cent of total expenditure on nursery education.

Local authorities in England and Wales spend £80m a year on the full-time equivalent of 230,000 nursery places. They would probably recoup less than £10m of that if they were allowed to charge the kind of fees they have proposed. Most are talking of between £2 and £5 a week.

About three-quarters of children in nursery schools and classes live in urban areas. Many are from poor families who would probably be eligible for free nursery education.

More revenue would be "lost" by those local authorities, probably Labour-controlled, who decided not to charge any fees. Any change in the law would empower authorities to charge, not make it a duty to do so.

No final decision has yet been taken by the Government on whether it will amend the Education Bill, or even introduce a new Bill, to give authorities the power to charge for nursery education; but it is considered unlikely to do so.

Whether or not the law is amended to allow nursery education charges, the Government is planning to change those sections of the Education Act, 1944, which, according to the recent ruling by the Attorney General, place a duty on local education authorities to make provision for nursery education, though how much is still not clear.

Under the amended law local authorities would be given the power, rather than the duty, to provide nursery education.

Child action group attacks Education Bill guillotine

By Our Education Correspondent

It is a scandal that a measure that has crucial implications for the education and health of thousands of children is to be rushed through the Commons by the Government, the Child Poverty Action Group says in a statement issued today.

A guillotine motion is to be taken on the Education Bill this evening. That will limit the debate on the controversial clause giving local authorities freedom to charge what they like for school meals, milk and transport.

The group points out that even if the Government agrees to amend the Bill so as to place a clear duty on education authorities to provide free school meals for children in families dependent on supplementary benefit or family income supplement, 500,000 children still stand to lose their entitlement to a free meal.

It predicts that the planned big increases in school meal charges will lead to a huge drop in the numbers taking a meal. It is concerned that thousands of children just above the poverty line will go hungry or have inappropriate food at midday.

Adult literacy unit seeks project ideas

By Our Education Correspondent

A large part of the £500,000 government grant for the new Adult Literacy and Basic Skills Unit will be used to sponsor special projects in collaboration with local education authorities and voluntary organizations, the Adult Literacy Unit announced yesterday.

It invites applications from teachers, librarians, local authorities and voluntary organizations for projects which will be £10,000 a year, and the maximum sponsorship period will be two years.

Actor is saved from prison

By Our Education Correspondent

A late decision by David Hemmings, the actor, to comply with a High Court order averted yesterday an attempt by his former wife, Gayle Hunnicutt, the actress, to have him jailed.

Miss Hunnicutt went to the Family Division of the High Court to ask Mr Justice Eastham to jail her former husband for contempt of court on the ground that he had not complied with an order made in December that he should provide her solicitors with a statement of his means.

The attempt to jail Mr Hemmings was dropped after he complied with the order. The judge said Mr Hemmings was plainly in contempt of an order of the court. However, as a result of advice given him by his solicitors he had, at the eleventh hour, complied with the order, and in the circumstances Miss Hunnicutt no longer sought to have him committed.

Under the amended law local authorities would be given the power, rather than the duty, to provide nursery education.

Postman shot by raiders

By Our Education Correspondent

A Blackpool post office van driver was shot in the leg receiving minor pellet wounds yesterday as armed raiders made off with about £9,000. The raiders escaped in an Escort van, later found "abandoned" about a quarter of a mile away. They are thought to have transferred to a car.

Two men were being interviewed by police last night.

Academy not to sell treasures to survive

By Kenneth Gossling
Arts Reporter

The Royal Academy, despite its financial difficulties, has no intention of selling any of its possessions, including the Michelangelo Tondo, its treasurer, Mr Roger de Grey, said yesterday.

The academicians "were bitterly opposed" to any sale, he said. "Only as a last-ditch manoeuvre to save the academy from extinction would any be sold; but I am sure it would never come to that, and that the Government, through the Arts Council, will take due course to be able to help us."

The successful Post-Impressionism exhibition, which is to be extended to March 30, delaying the summer exhibition by a fortnight, has had more than 280,000 visitors, bringing in £300,000.

In a breakdown of the Royal Academy's expenses, which total £560,000, Mr de Grey said the gap between that figure and an approximate assured income of £300,000 had to be made up by the income from exhibitions.

"That can be a bit of a gamble", he said. "We are in a better position than we have been in since the Turner exhibition, but when the exhibition stops we shall probably go into debt again."

Sir Hugh Casson, president of the academy, referred again to the Tondo at yesterday's annual press conference, when he said that it was still justifiable to lend it to the Soviet Union in exchange for an exhibition of treasures from Leningrad and Moscow.

The Government had refused to allow it to leave; but the academy had "kept the ball in play".

Sir Hugh said an exhibition from Russia would be "fantastically successful". But the Russians struck hard bargains and they had said: "The Tondo or nothing". Offered a loan of Leonardo's drawings belonging to the Queen, they had said: "We should like them as well".

With negotiations having lasted for six years, Sir Hugh said, the door was still open. He also announced that apart from this summer's exhibition, which includes the first major European retrospective exhibition of the American realist artist, Andrew Wyeth, there is to be held in the winter of next year an exhibition of Japanese art which Sir Hugh called "the most expensive undertaking we have ever got into".

It will be staged with the aid of a £300,000 bridging loan from the Midland Bank, of which £125,000 will be interest-free.

Churchills club to close, owner tells court

By Our Education Correspondent

Churchills, the London night club, is to close. Harry Meadows, the owner, told a jury at Knightsbridge Crown Court, London, yesterday: "We are aiming to close it down in view of what the police action has done. If you look at our business and our figures, you will see we are running at a loss."

Mr Meadows, aged 63, and his son Andrew, aged 38, also a director of the club, both of Mayfair, have pleaded not guilty to living off the earnings of prostitutes working at Churchill's hostesses.

The trial continues today.

Call for quick decision on bridge or tunnel

By Our Education Correspondent

The wrangle over whether a bridge or a tunnel should carry the A55 road across the river at the medieval town of Conwy may delay the project by up to three years, a conference was told at Llandudno yesterday.

Mr Hugh Davies, the Gwynedd county surveyor, said a decision was expected before the end of 1980 from the Welsh Office.

For a bridge the starting date would be 1983. For a tunnel the target date could be 1986.

The conference was called by the county council, the British Road Federation and the Confederation of British Industry in Wales to demand faster progress in the scheme to make the A55 into a dual carriageway between Chester and Bangor.

Two MPs, Mr Dafydd Wigley (Plaid Cymru, Caernarvon) and Mr Keith Best (Conservative, Anglesey), spoke of the vital importance of the scheme to the economy of North Wales. Many delegates expressed fears about the next round of spending cuts.

Thrift 'for dog'

By Our Education Correspondent

James Anastasi, aged 20, said at Marlborough Street Magistrates' Court, London, yesterday to have been caught with a "No waiting" traffic cone sticking out of his car boot, said to the police: "I am taking it home for my dog to chew."

Mr Anastasi, of Avenue Road, Southgate, London was fined £10.

£70,744 left by cottage murder woman

By Our Education Correspondent

Mrs Ann Carver, aged 39, one of two women murdered in a cottage in Cheshire last November, left £70,744 net. Her will was published yesterday.

Mrs Carver, of Cranmore, Ashton Lane, Willoughbridge, Staffordshire, and her friend, Mrs Elizabeth Blood, were found shot after they went to sort through the effects of Mrs Carver's mother at the cottage in Scholar Green, near Congleton, Cheshire.

Three men have been charged. Other wills, page 14

Smuggler of rare birds jailed for six months

By Our Education Correspondent

Gordon Cooke, a smuggler of rare birds, was tracked down by the Canadian Mounted Police from a letter, Judge Sims, QC, was told at Leicester Crown Court yesterday.

Mr Cooke, aged 48, who was said to have operated from his home at Burgh Avenue, Wigston Fields, Leicester, admitted six offences of illegally importing birds, one of exporting birds and another involving recklessly declaring an untrue document in regard to the import of rare birds. He was jailed for six months and fined £200.

Mr Jeremy Roberts, for the prosecution, said that Mr Cooke, although well aware of restrictions introduced on January 1, 1976, did not apply for licences and chose to conceal the birds' identity by means of a bogus document. On the documents the value of the birds was very much reduced so as not to arouse suspicion.

Counsel said the birds included a pair of six macaws from Paraguay. There were thought to be only six pairs of the birds in the world and they were valued at £1,000 each.

Bus in collision

By Our Education Correspondent

Fifteen passengers were taken to hospital yesterday after a London Transport double-deck bus was in collision with a lorry at Belvedere, Kent. No one was seriously injured.

The Civil Aviation Authority also announced yesterday that Air United Kingdom will take over the BA licence to operate on the Leeds and Bradford-Dublin route.

As an experiment the authority is to allow the Channel Islands carrier, Aldair, to fly limited charter services between the islands and Birmingham, Leeds and Bradford, Coventry, Exeter and Cardiff.

Airlines to take over BA's rejected routes

By Our Education Correspondent

Dan-Air Services has been granted a licence to operate flights between Bristol and Cardiff and Dublin and Paris, and between Newcastle upon Tyne and Dublin. The routes are among 26 being given up as uneconomic by British Airways.

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Review of last year's weather, page 21

Removing the warts from Scotland's industrial face

By Our Education Correspondent

Some old eyesores in Scotland have become so familiar that they are protected by law. The "pit bings" colliery tips near Livingston, Lothian, known affectionately as the five sisters, rest under a preservation order lest some zealous environmentalist should seek to flatten them.

More usually the scars left by change and industry have decayed into an ugly thread in the Scottish fabric for which familiarity has bred acceptance. The gap site, the old town tip, and the thousands of acres of cinder waste are a neglected but costly loss.

Steadily, repairs are being made. The Scottish Development Agency has spent £56.5m on righting old environmental wrongs and recently approved its one thousandth improvement scheme. They have ranged from small plots where the agency's signboard appeared

Regional report

By Our Education Correspondent

The Glasgow Development Agency has spent £56.5m on righting old environmental wrongs and recently approved its one thousandth improvement scheme. They have ranged from small plots where the agency's signboard appeared

larger than the scheme itself to large reclamation projects costing several million pounds. There was a fair measure of scepticism when the agency, an arm of government, announced that it was to repair those decades of neglect. The work began with a £300,000 scheme to turn the tattered south bank of the Clyde into a walkway by rebuilding the river wall using part of an old wharf and mending the improvement carried out along the north bank.

The centre of Glasgow, St Enoch's station, has been razed and the waste material used to fill in the derelict Queen's Dock area. A century ago the material from Queen's Dock was excavated to build the St Enoch's station. Both will become valuable central sites.

The five protected sisters are far outnumbered by other bings that are truly ugly. More than 100 have been sculptured out of the landscape by earthmovers.

These projects have brought the biggest transformation because some bings were great red warts 150ft high. Several very unpleasant shadows have been removed. Mr Alastair Gilchrist, head of land renewal at the development agency, said:

The agency calculated that about 5,000 acres has been reclaimed and a further 2,000 acres a year of new land will be added. There is some danger involved in that scheme for under the surface, shales are being exposed. Two machines which punctured crusts were lost and drivers had to jump for their lives.

The industrial West of Scotland was not the only area to need help. As the emerald to Glasgow, the Clyde has been spared on clearing up the mess of slate quarry which tore a hillside apart and left sombre pyramids of debris.

Bishop concerned at Catholic divorce views

By Our Education Correspondent

The general profile of Roman Catholicism that emerges is of a higher level of practice and belief than in any other denomination. It no longer reflects its Irish origins but penetrates all levels of class and all parts of the country and appears to be disproportionately attractive to the middle class, contrary to the traditional mix.

Regular church-goers appear to be substantially more committed than the rest to good race relations and to help for poorer countries, two thirds of them being willing to accept a reduction in living standards as a result.

Roman Catholics appear to be well-disposed towards their leaders, with only the sexual-moral area signifying any unease, and generally to accept recent changes in the church hierarchy and the Second Vatican Council.

It is a population younger than the population at large, and the proportion of divorced Catholics, 3 per cent of the total, is not greatly different from that for the whole country.

Only a tiny minority (2.8 per cent) describe themselves as regular visitors to the confessional, while one out of two of the whole sample, including lapsed Catholics, said that they prayed daily.

The Catholic population divides on political lines in the river of living for the sake of poorer nations. 57 to 36, compared with 42 to 47 in the country at large at the last election.

Some of the results showed that people were becoming satisfied with the "conscience" approach to matters such as contraception and divorce. There was a desire for norms of sexual conduct which people could happily accept.

The survey revealed a surprising degree of influence from the Catholic schools system on subsequent belief and practice.

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Removal of warts from Scotland's industrial face

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WEST EUROPE

French float idea for European defence force outside Nato

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Jan 28
M. Michel Poniatowski, friend and adviser of President Giscard d'Estaing—whose private views he is often believed to reflect—and honorary president of the Republican Party, came out in favour of a European nuclear force independent of Nato in an interview on Europe Number One radio yesterday.
"If we are moving towards an armed conflict, I think France and Europe should not share in the suicide of the superpowers," he said. "We must set up an adequate nuclear force of our own, and we can have it in three or four years' time."
"All French submarines will be equipped with multiple warheads, 500 altogether, and if we can reach agreement with Britain, there can be a real deterrent."
The former Minister of State has a well-established reputation for making provocative statements, launching bold ideas and floating trial balloons on behalf of the President. Whether this is one of them is difficult to establish.
But it is possibly significant that M. Jean Lecanier, head of the Gaullist UDF, during a seminar at the Senate two days ago on the problems facing the European Community, issued a strong appeal for a European defence organization, without which there could be no real progress towards European unity.
This European nuclear force would lead other European countries to what he called "de-Natolization" on the French pattern of 1966.
M. Poniatowski bases his reasoning on the proposition that "the American nuclear umbrella is now full of holes", and American leaders had not hidden the fact from Europeans that it would probably not fulfil its function of protecting Europe in more than one case out of four.
"Therefore, if European countries do not wish to be involved

in a nuclear conflict, they must have the same reaction of defence, arising from a reaction of protection. If we wish to commit nuclear suicide, we need only associate ourselves with one or other of the two camps. A whole new military organization would have to be set up, and it would need something like 10 years of negotiation. The European countries should seek to do this gradually; it would not arrive tomorrow, but it would be an inevitable evolution on their part."
The former minister did not mention what part West Germany would play in this European nuclear force, but there is good reason to believe that he sees it as purely logistical and financial.
M. Yvon Bourges, Minister of Defence, who is in London today and tomorrow for talks with Mr Francis Pym, the Defence Secretary, may raise the possibility of cooperation between France and Britain in the nuclear field, but only in their private talks.
Officially his journey is to talk about possible joint production of conventional armaments, such as the successors to the Harrier aircraft, the new generation of helicopters, and the third generation of supersonic anti-tank weapons.
France is also open to co-operation with Britain in development and production of a new range of missiles for nuclear submarines, which would substantially reduce the cost to each country, and to some joint targeting of their strategic forces.
M. Bourges once made overtures on these lines to Mr Fred Mulley, but got nowhere as the Labour Government did not contemplate a successor to Polaris.
Mrs Thatcher's Administration may, however, be more forthcoming, but it is too early in the day to broach the matter. It is a far cry from M. Poniatowski's revised version of the abortive European Defence Community of 1952.

Dutch synod resolves vexed issues

From Peter Nichols
Rome, Jan 28
The Dutch bishops and the Vatican have managed to resolve a number of their misunderstandings, according to the markedly soft-sounding official statement issued after today's meeting here of the special synod of the Dutch church.
This clearing away of the "difficulties of the past" had been achieved by the personal contacts between the Dutch bishops and members of the Roman Curia during the deliberations of the synod.
An overall view on communications between the bishops and the Holy See had shown the bishops the inaccuracy of certain views on Rome's conduct concerning, above all, the Vatican's readiness to be informed of local situations in an impartial, complete and positive way, preferably by the bishops themselves.
The synod also managed to eliminate a degree of uneasiness over the climate of indecision which at times had seemed equivocal and which could have been the cause of the serious concern felt by Rome.
An examination of the relations themselves had shown, among other things, that a deeper understanding in evaluating the situation in Holland could have been one of the fundamental causes of dissimilar pastoral approaches and of different concepts of collaboration among the bishops.
Reference was made to the moral authority that a united episcopate faithful to the Holy See could have in the Netherlands.

Pope condemns violence that afflicts sport

From Our Own Correspondent
Rome, Jan 28
The Pope today strongly condemned violent behaviour at sporting events as "nonsense and a monstrous absurdity".
He was speaking at an audience attended by members of the Roma and Lazio football teams. Tension is normally high when these teams play each other.
The Pope, an accomplished sportsman himself, pointed out that sporting events were intended to give pleasure, solidarity and brotherhood, not terror, hate, and division.

French adviser expelled

Victoria, Seychelles, Jan 28.
—The Seychelles has expelled a French technical adviser, arrested last November in connexion with an attempt to overthrow the Government, it was reported today.
M. Jacques Chevalrey, an adviser with the Seychelles police force, was deported yesterday after admitting participating in the preparation of a coup on a local and an international level—against President Albert René, the Seychelles news agency said.
Disclosures made by M. Chevalrey would enable Seychelles police to continue investigations, the agency added. The President last November accused M. Chevalrey of involvement in a plot against his left-wing regime allegedly launched by Mr James Mancham, the former President, and Mr Adnan Kassaboglu, a Saudi Arabian millionaire—Agence France-Press.

M Marchais defends Soviet 'peace policy'

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Jan 28
The French Communist counter-offensive in defence of Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and Russia's "peace policy" generally continues unabated, accompanied by particularly violent attacks against the socialists.
They are not apparently embarrassed by the Sakharov affair which provides them with a chance of demonstrating, through mild criticism, that they are not committed body and soul to the Moscow line.
In fact, M. Georges Marchais, the first secretary of the party, said on Radio Luxembourg quite early that if he had been in Moscow at the time of Dr Sakharov's arrest, "I would have expressed my opposition to it. There would have been no joint communiqué. I would have flown back to Paris the following day, like Chaban-Delmas, and unlike Chaban-Delmas, I would have made a statement in Moscow."
M. Jacques Chaban-Delmas, president of the National Assembly, cut short an official visit to Moscow when the French Government took action against Dr Sakharov.
M. Marchais described Dr Sakharov as a man of the right, but added: "His standpoint should be combated by political and ideological measures, not administrative measures." The United States, on the other hand, whose leaders had "blood on their hands", had no right to pose as defenders of the rights of man.
"We the Communists, the revolutionaries, are the champions of the rights of man," he insisted. "We condemned the period of the gulags. But what did French governments do about the Algerian war? We condemned practices contrary to

The Prado loses track of 300 paintings

From Harry Debelius
Madrid, Jan 28
More than 300 paintings from the Prado Museum's collection have been given up as lost, the sub-director, Señor Alfonso Pérez Sánchez, said here today.
During a lecture at the museum, the sub-director said that an investigation had been ordered after Madrid newspapers reported last year that great numbers of art treasures assigned to the museum were missing.
The inquiries disclosed that about 500 paintings had disappeared in the century and a half of the Prado's existence, but some of them could be recovered, reducing the number of those missing to a little over 300.
Señor Pérez Sánchez added that the investigation ordered by the Justice Ministry was useful in tracking down works of art which had been given on loan to civil and religious institutions, and had resulted in the photographing of all the art treasures that could be found.
"Now we will be able to see exactly what we have and where it is," he said. "In order to plan what to do with it."
When the Prado took over the collection of Spain's 1872, it found itself with more than 5,000 paintings and little space to display them. Instead, a policy of distributing paintings on loan to civil and religious institutions was established.
"There was never any question of where these pieces had gone," the sub-director claimed, but problems arose when it came to finding out if they were still where they went. There were even cases in which paintings were swapped from one embassy to another, without even advising the Prado Museum.
The Prado, which has an excess of pictures, does not intend to recall the paintings in the custody of other institutions, except for some of the more important works.

socialism and the rights of man, for they are not in the nature of socialism."
The Communist leader poured heavy scorn on M. François Mitterrand, the Socialist leader, with whom he has been involved in violent semantic battle over nice things the Socialists are alleged to have said in 1975 about "the contribution of the Soviet Union to international détente."
M. Mitterrand accused M. Marchais of lying. He added that M. Marchais had not the means of banishing him to Gorky, but morally his behaviour amounted to the same thing. To this the Communist leader retorted that M. Mitterrand was making himself ridiculous.
On another tack, M. Marchais has revealed details of his personal wealth, in a letter replying to a questionnaire sent to 80 politicians by the news magazine *Le Point*.
His reply, published in today's *L'Humanité*, shows his gross income as amounting to 67,355 francs (£7,230) and his net worth as 42,567 francs (£4,600). He rented a small house at Champany, and had a car and chauffeur which went with the party responsibilities.
As to his other assets, he had bought a 750cc Buick for 75,000 francs (£8,100), which he had knocked into shape. He had also inherited a small house in Normandy from his mother.
He had no land, no stocks and shares, no real estate in Switzerland or abroad, no gold, old masters, jewels, collectors' items, yacht, or private aircraft.
French Communist leaders did not grow rich, in his reply. He asked why President Giscard d'Estaing did not appear in the list of the 80 personalities questioned.

Confidence vote sought on Italy's anti-terror laws

From Our Own Correspondent
Rome, Jan 28
Signor Francesco Cossiga, the Italian Prime Minister, decided today to make the anti-terror measures now before Parliament a question of confidence in his Government.
He is taking this step to bring to an end the obstruction which threatened to carry the debate in the Chamber of Deputies beyond the deadline of 60 days from the introduction of the decrees to their conversion into law.
Today the left-wing parties met in an attempt to reach agreement on a number of amendments to the measures which would enable the left to force them and persecuted the Radicals to stop their obstructionism. No agreement was reached and the Radicals are continuing with their tactic of introducing several thousand amendments.
The decision to call for a vote of confidence was not an easy one. Some of the Socialists are two minds about how to deal with the situation. The Government is dependent on Socialist abstentions for its parliamentary majority. The left wing of the party is in favour of opposing the anti-terrorist measures.
Difficulties for the Government, the former President, and Mr Adnan Kassaboglu, a Saudi Arabian millionaire—Agence France-Press.

OVERSEAS



The actress Sophia Loren joins President Carter at the White House to launch a national appeal for prevention of child abuse.

Karmal men hide embarrassing slogans under flood of red paint

From Ian Murray
Kabul, Jan 28
They are painting the city of Kabul—or at least that part of it which was decorated with revolutionary slogans.
The decision to efface the slogans coincides with a broadcast made by the President, which seems to be an attempt to mollify the Muslim leaders who declare "a holy war against the revolutionary regimes and the Russians."
Beginning his broadcast "In the name of God, the Compassionate and Merciful", the President said he wanted to guarantee the freedom of the people to worship Islam. Any religious leaders who had fled the country could return without fear or persecution, provided that they did not take any action against national or state interests.
The broadcast blamed the persecution of the mullahs on "the treacherous Amin and his criminal band" and says that some of the religious leaders were forced into exile where they were offered a "holy war" against the revolutionary regimes.
The tone of the broadcast is further evidence that the President and his Soviet advisers were being tactically wrong to continue the repression to put up a slogan must be

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Mr Kennedy rejects Carter plan to prepare for conscription

From David Cross
Washington, Jan 27
Senator Edward Kennedy today sought to inject fresh momentum into his faltering presidential election campaign with a forceful attack on President Carter's foreign and domestic policies.
In a 50-minute speech delivered before a generally friendly audience at Georgetown University, Washington, the senator from Massachusetts accused Mr Carter of conducting a foreign policy replete with "exaggerated dangers and empty symbols" and a domestic policy based on Republican recriminations.
But although his well-rehearsed speech was brightly written and competently delivered, its contents, particularly in the foreign affairs section, failed to differentiate him clearly from the policies being pursued by the present Administration.
The only important exception was his categorical rejection of Mr Carter's plans to reinstitute registration for conscription.
As might be expected at a forum bringing together young people eligible for the draft, Mr Kennedy was greeted with sustained applause when he said he opposed registration "when it only means reams of computer print-outs that would be a stark choice between Soviet troops and American naval and air forces

in south-west Asia must be strengthened and support must be provided for America's allies in the region, Mr Kennedy said. Moreover, America's friends and allies should join the United States in confronting "Soviet adventurism."
On further to public than Mr Carter, has in calling for an international investigation of the alleged crimes of the exiled Shah to help secure the release of the 50 hostages still being held in the American Embassy in Tehran. The inquiry could be set up immediately and then begin its work once the hostages had been released, he suggested.
Mr Kennedy was on surer ground when he attacked President Carter for the country's grave economic problems. Under a Democratic Administration we have had three more years of Republican inflation, three more years of Republican interest rates and three more years of Republican economics", he said.
He called for the immediate adoption of a petrol rationing plan and the prompt introduction of a six-month freeze on inflation—followed by mandatory controls, as long as necessary, across the board—not only on prices and wages, but also on profits, dividends, interest rates and rent.
The senator's main constituency has always been the trade unions and the disadvantaged and he acknowledged as much today. The Carter doctrine, he said, offers defence contractors a bright future of expansion and profit. But the middle class, the blue-collar workers, minorities, and every victim of discrimination by race or sex are being left behind. The bleak prospect of higher taxes, higher interest rates, higher inflation.
Today's speech had been carefully prepared and rehearsed by Mr Kennedy and his staff. In the wake of last

Dr Sakharov retains Academy membership

From Michael Binyan
Moscow, Jan 28
Dr Andrei Sakharov, the exiled dissident, has not lost his membership of the Soviet Academy of Sciences. A meeting of the presidium of the Academy today censured Dr Sakharov for actions directed against the interests of the Soviet Union, but made no suggestion that this membership be revoked.
Membership of the academy is the sole remaining benefit left to the nuclear physicist, whose honours and state awards were stripped from him last week. It entitles him to a regular income and a chauffeur-driven car.
An announcement this evening by Tass said that the presidium had noted that in spite of an earlier reprimand by the Academy Dr Sakharov "continues activities directed towards undermining the Soviet system, towards violent coercion against the Soviet Union's policy of peace, the struggle to limit arms, relax international tensions, a policy which enjoys the support of Soviet scientists and all the Soviet people."
Tass added: "The presidium of the Soviet Academy of Sciences censured Academician Sakharov's actions directed against the interests of our country and the Soviet people. Meanwhile, the Russians announced the name of the successor to Dr Vladimir Kirillin, the Soviet Deputy Prime Minister, whose resignation was announced on the day that Dr Sakharov was banished. He is

Dr Gury Marchuk, a mathematician and vice-president of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, who now becomes chairman of the influential State Committee for Science and Technology. Worse than jail: Dr Sakharov's wife Yelena, returned to Moscow today and said that the conditions "under which her husband was held in internal exile were worse than those faced by many Soviet prison camp inmates."
She said a heart ailment that has afflicted her husband in the past has become aggravated by the strain of his forced move from Moscow to Gorky.
Her husband emphatically denied the series of allegations the Soviet authorities have published since his banishment from Moscow in an evident attempt to justify his exile, she said. "He never, at any time, gave anyone any state secrets involved with defence," Mrs Sakharov told Western reporters.
She said Dr Sakharov, a Nobel peace prize-winner, has been told that he may not telephone anyone outside the Soviet Union, and he cannot receive or write any letters abroad. Two of his stepchildren and their families who live in the United States are included in the ban. "Even those in a prison camp can receive letters," she remarked.
Western press reports that Dr Sakharov had been offered a choice by the Soviet authorities—expulsion to Vienna or exile to Gorky—were not true, she said.—UPI

India and Pakistan 'could create peace'

From Richard Wigg
Delhi, Jan 28
Anything leading to good relations at present between India and Pakistan would be a positive development for peace and stability in the area, M. Francisco-Poncet, the French Foreign Minister, said today.
He was commenting on yesterday's joint statement issued by President Giscard d'Estaing and Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, after their talks on the Afghanistan crisis.
M. Francisco-Poncet reiterated France's view that the Soviet Union must withdraw its troops from Afghanistan "and there must be some precision given as to when and how."

When asked if he considered it proper for arms to be supplied to Pakistan, he said that although France was deeply interested in disarmament every nation had the right to have enough arms to ensure its security.
Last night's joint statement carefully referred to a "dangerous" arms build-up in sensitive regions.
Questioned on what role France might play in the situation, M. Francisco-Poncet said it would be harmful for the people of the region if blocks were formed, presumably a reference to the Washington-Peking-Islamabad axis now talked about here.

Boycott motion ready for Senate

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, Jan 28
Congressional support for an American boycott of the summer Olympic Games in Moscow in protest at the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan was further advanced today when the Senate foreign relations committee came out unanimously in favour of such a move.
After four hours of testimony, a resolution supporting President Carter's request for the transfer, postponement or cancellation of the games was approved by 14 votes to nil. The resolution also called for a permanent site for the summer Olympics in Greece where the games started.
A large Senate majority in favour of the resolution is expected.
Foreign Staff writes: Barring war or natural disaster the summer games will stay in Moscow, a source on the International Olympic Committee said in Switzerland.
There are only two possibilities. Either the games take place as scheduled in Moscow or else they are called off to cancel them, there would have to be a situation of force majeure under IOC rules, such as a world war or a natural disaster, the source said.
The Belgian Olympic Committee has decided not to boycott the Moscow games.
Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, said on radio that India would probably take part in the Moscow games.
By Boubaid, the Prime Minister of Morocco, declared that his country was "completely in agreement with a boycott," according to official reports from Gabon, where he is on a visit.
The Saudi press agency said Bahrain had decided to boycott the Moscow games.
The President of Chile has also announced a boycott.

No attempt by Mr Carter to buy tax-cut popularity

From Frank Vogl
US Economics Correspondent
Washington, Jan 28
Caught in the cross-winds of raging inflation and declining economic activity the President of the United States today proposed a budget that is unlikely to have a significant effect on economic trends, but which could provoke political storms in this election year.
Mr Carter emphasized the need to boost military spending sharply and swiftly increase programmes to deal with the nation's energy crisis in proposing a budget of \$67.7 billion (£22,220m) for the 1981 fiscal year, which starts on October 1. The budget will result in an estimated deficit of \$15,773m.
The President has resisted the temptation to garner popularity by advocating tax cuts in this budget. At the same time, he has accepted the failure of not keeping his often repeated pledge to balance the budget during his first term of office. He claimed today that inflation

is the prime domestic problem and that proposing tax cuts now would add to inflationary pressures.
The new budget, however, involving a deficit as it does (albeit a deficit equal to no more than 0.6 per cent of Gross National Product), will not strengthen general confidence in America's chances of securing price stability.
President Carter went to considerable lengths in his budget message to justify committing 24 per cent of total Government expenditure to national defence.
I cannot ignore the major increase in Soviet military spending that have taken place inexorably over the past 20 years. I cannot ignore our commitment to our Nato allies for mutual real increases in our investment in national defence. I cannot ignore the implications of terrorism in Iran, or Soviet aggression in Afghanistan", he said.
President Carter has had to face great pressures to restrain public spending in order to combat inflation, while at the

same time confronting demands for major spending increases for defence, energy, agriculture, unemployment assistance and foreign aid.
To try to keep everyone happy he has had to display the skill of a contortionist and he claims that he has done well by meeting most demands and still holding real spending growth to just 9 per cent over this year's level.
In attempting to counter those who will point to his failure to keep his budget balancing pledge the President emphasized that the deficit of just under \$16,000m is not one of the lowest in seven years, but that it is full \$50,000m below President Ford's budget in 1976.
The White House is deeply worried about this issue. Dr Charles Schultze, the President's chief economic adviser, today declared that Government outlays rose in real terms at an annual average of 3.9 per cent in the 1960s and by 3.1 per cent in the first

seven years of the 1970s, but that since President Carter has been in the White House the rise has been just 1.3 per cent and that "the rise for the fiscal year is just two-tenths of one per cent in real terms."
The detailed breakdown of the proposed spending of \$66,000m next year shows that 24 per cent of the total is for defence, accounting for 43 per cent of grants to states and local authorities amounting to 15 per cent and net interest payments and other Government operations amounting together to 18 per cent.
On the revenue front the estimated income of \$67,000m is 45 per cent due to individual income taxes, 30 per cent to social insurance receipts, 12 per cent to corporate income taxes, with the remainder coming mainly from borrowing and excise taxes.
When all Government loan programmes are added to the budget deficit the public sector

borrowing demands in the 1981 fiscal year are likely to total \$33,900m compared to \$55,500m.
The budget figures are predicated on the assumption of a mild recession in the first half of this year, producing an overall gdp decline of 1 per cent in real terms for 1980. That will be followed by a sluggish recovery that will see real gdp growth of 2.8 per cent. Unemployment is seen climbing by over 1.5 per cent during 1980 reaching about 7.5 per cent by the end of the year.
Among the massive volume of changes in detailed energy programmes in the new budget is one that directly results from the energy crisis last year at Three Mile Island nuclear power plant.
The White House said nuclear power programmes shift support from advanced reactor types such as the breeder reactor to increased efficiency and safety in existing nuclear plants.
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OVERSEAS

Iran's new President sets about curbing influence of students

Tehran, Jan 28.—The students occupying the United States embassy here today rejected the statement by Mr. Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, the president-elect, that they formed a potential rival government. They said not all decisions should go through Government channels.

A student spokesman said they approved of Mr. Bani-Sadr as the popular choice for President but insisted on their right to disagree with his views.

In a broadcast interview last night, Mr. Bani-Sadr said he accepted that everyone had the right to express views, provided that the "functioning organizations" were able to carry out their tasks.

"But if in Iran we have two governments, for example one the students' and the second one the Revolutionary Council, this condition is not acceptable," he added.

If the students were going to dictate policy, then the Government should be under their control, he said. "But it is supposed that there will be a Government, its decisions must be carried out."

The dispute was touched off by a student statement on Saturday condemning the Government's decision to attend the conference of Islamic foreign ministers in Islamabad on the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

Mr. Bani-Sadr, who emphasized that he was not at the meeting of the ruling Revolutionary Council which decided to send a delegate to Islamabad, said the students should have listened to the council's reasons for the decision, even if they were not convinced.

The students claimed that the Islamabad meeting was an American plot to concentrate the Soviet Union and to distract attention from what they say is the much greater threat posed to Islam by the United States.

Opposition mounted here today to the decision to take part in the conference, with the students sticking to their views and critical statements coming from the powerful Qom Theological Society, the Revolutionary guards and the evening newspaper Kapehan.

Several thousand students marched to the Foreign Ministry shouting "Camp David and Pakistan against the deprived masses" and "the Pakistan conference, an American plot, must be exposed in the Middle East". Mr. Bani-Sadr's dispute with the students was not seen here as necessarily meaning that he planned to take them on immediately over the hostage issue at the United States embassy, but rather to restrict their influence in other spheres.

Final figures issued today for last Friday's presidential election showed that Mr. Bani-Sadr captured nearly 76 per cent of just over 14 million votes cast.

Admiral Ahmad Madani runner-up in the election with less than 15 per cent of the vote predicted today that a future parliament would be dominated by the pro-Shah Islamic Republican Party (IRP).

Ayatollah Khomeini, who has been in hospital since last Wednesday with a heart condition, was reported well on the road to recovery today and briefly left his hospital for photographers.—Reuters.



The Ayatollah Khomeini after leaving his hospital bed briefly yesterday. He is recovering from a heart condition.

Iran gives its first presidency to a man who has joined Koranic codes to modern economics

Mr Bani-Sadr fulfils a prophecy

By Tony Schwartz

In the year since Mr. Abolhasan Bani-Sadr returned to Iran from his self-imposed exile in France his fortunes have often mirrored the turbulence and uncertainty of Iran.

It was 15 years ago in France that he is said to have told M. Jean-Paul Sartre, the French philosopher: "I will be the first President of Iran."

As recently as two months ago, it seemed unlikely that Mr. Bani-Sadr's prophecy would come true but on Sunday, with most of the votes counted, it was clear that he had achieved an overwhelming victory in Iran's first presidential election.

At the core of his ideology is a fierce belief that the key to a flourishing, classless Islamic society in Iran is economic independence. Mr. Bani-Sadr's mild manner and casual Western dress belie the fervent nationalism that has made him so popular in Iran.

Although he believes the holding of American hostages at the embassy in Tehran is counterproductive, he has long criticized United States involvement in Iran. He also recently criticized the Soviet thrust into Afghanistan as a potential threat to Iran and said his country might boycott the Moscow Olympics.

An old friend and adviser to Ayatollah Khomeini and a member of his Revolutionary Council, Mr. Bani-Sadr emerged as Iran's leading revolutionary theoretician after the overthrow of the Shah. When the Bazarjani Government fell in November just after the



Mr Bani-Sadr speaking at a press conference in Tehran.

American embassy was seized, Mr. Bani-Sadr was named acting Foreign Minister.

He survived just 18 days before being ousted, apparently for taking too moderate a position on the hostages.

He was allowed to keep his portfolio as Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs, and created a brief international furor by suggesting that Iran would no longer accept dollars in payment for oil and by repudiating all Iranian debts overseas. These positions were eventually overruled.

The economist had more success within Iran where he supervised the nationalization of banks and insurance companies and much of the private industry owned by the Shah's allies. Mr. Bani-Sadr's attitudes are rooted in his strict Islamic

upbringing. He was born in 1933 at Mahabad in western Iran. His father, the Ayatollah Seyyed Nasrollah Bani-Sadr, was a revered religious leader.

When Mr. Bani-Sadr attended Tehran university he joined the anti-Shah nationalist movement that brought Muhammad Mossadeq to power in 1951. In 1953, after the Shah was returned to power, he was finally able to return to Iran and was involved in an American-backed coup.

Mr. Bani-Sadr joined the underground opposition movement.

Then, as now, he avoided affiliation with any party. During the next decade, he was arrested twice by Savak, the Shah's secret police. In 1963, during an uprising against the Shah led by Ayatollah Khomeini, he was wounded and spent four months in jail. He finally went into exile in Paris the following year, settling in Paris where he studied and later taught at the Sorbonne.

Mr. Bani-Sadr remained active with exiled Iranian student groups, edited an anti-Shah newspaper and wrote three books and several dozen articles criticizing the Shah's policies, portraying Iran as a captive of foreignness and outlining a vision of an independent and egalitarian style.

In one of his books, *Economics of Divine Unity*, he developed a theory based on the Koranic codes and modern economics. When Ayatollah Khomeini moved from exile in Iraq to Iran in 1978, he stayed for a few days in the small Paris apartment where Mr. Bani-Sadr lived with his wife and three children. *New York Times News Service.*

Leading article, page 13

Five French gendarmes led attack on Saudi rebels

From Charles Hargrove Paris, Jan 28

A group of five French gendarmes of the special anti-terrorist squad flown out to Riyadh at the request of the Saudi Government played a decisive part in the neutralization of 1,500 insurgents entrenched in the Grand Mosque of Mecca last November.

The report, carried by the independent *Quotidien de Paris* two weeks ago, in contrast with many additional details in the latest issue of the news magazine *Le Point*. Neither the Elysée Palace nor the French Defence Ministry would comment on the report.

The whole affair was kept a close secret as the Saudi Government did not want to offend Muslim sentiment by disclosing that "infidels" had entered the holy precincts of the Grand Mosque.

According to the magazine, King Khalid personally asked President Giscard d'Estaing for the assistance of the French gendarmes, after the Saudi forces had failed to cope with the rebels. It was not a coup by Muslim fanatics, as it had been put out at the time, but a rebellion against the monarchy, which broke out on November 20 in several places simultaneously as a bomb exploded in the royal palace at Riyadh itself.

By staging a coup against the Grand Mosque, the insurgents hoped that the Saudi Army would converge on Mecca and leave them a free hand elsewhere. But the Saudi Minister of the Interior, who was in charge of the operations, was content to isolate the mosque.

After five days, Saudi paratroopers had only succeeded in retaking the first and ground floors of the mosque, with substantial losses on both sides, while the insurgents retreated into the huge basement of the building.

The morale of the royal troops was apparently very low at this stage, and King Khalid decided to call on the help of the French anti-terrorist squad, set up in 1972, after an attack on the Saudi Arabian Embassy in Paris.

The group of 42 specialists has in the past six years succeeded in rescuing more than 200 hostages, both in France and abroad.

The five men, under the command of Captain Barril, flew out on November 23 in a special aircraft, together with a mass of sophisticated arms and equipment.

They took stock of the situation on the spot, drew up a plan of assault, restored the morale of the 3,000 Saudi troops, trained them to carry it out, and practically directed the operation itself, which took the form of several simultaneous assaults.

On December 3, the rebels were overpowered, but the loss of life was considerable: More than 5,000 killed, according to *Le Point*.

Attack on town in Tunisia

Paris, Jan 28.—The Tunisian military town of Gafsa, under heavy Army and police guard today after a guerrilla attack at the weekend on a Tunisian Army barracks.

Reliable sources in Tunis said that communications with the town, 220 miles south-west of Tunis, on the fringe of the Sahara desert, were still cut.

Fighting began yesterday and continued throughout the day, the Tunis sources said. The guerrilla force, which included foreigners, numbered about 300. Inhabitants of the town reported seeing helicopters and movements of armoured vehicles.

There are no official figures, but the sources said well over 20 people were dead and there were many wounded.

A group opposed to the Destour Party regime of President Habib Bourguiba—the Tunisian Resistance Army—claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement issued in Paris. Describing the regular Tunisian Army as an "oppressive tool", it said 300 Tunisian soldiers were killed and the Gafsa hospital was filled with wounded.

The statement also claimed that a special helicopter had to rescue President Bourguiba, who was in the region. It added that Mirage jets, "which the Tunisian Army does not have", flew over Gafsa to which had "welcomed great event with sympathy and enthusiasm".

The attack was timed to coincide with the second anniversary of a trade union uprising, the statement said. Several union leaders were jailed after a general strike and rioting in January 1978.

The agency said last night that Gafsa was calm after the guerrillas retreated into the hills, and that a large number were captured.

Algerian Government sources have expressed "surprise and regret" at accusations that the guerrillas came across the Algerian border.

Officials in Tunis said many of the troops stationed in Gafsa had been in the neighbouring town of Nefta, where President Bourguiba was on holiday, at the time of the raid. — Agence France-Presse and Reuters.

Syrian troop moves worry Israel

From Christopher Walker Jerusalem, Jan 28

Reports of Syrian troop and artillery movements in Lebanon are causing concern to the Israeli Government and to its allies in southern Lebanon, the Christian militias commanded by Major Saad Haddad.

In an interview on Israel radio today Major Haddad claimed that Syrian troops had advanced to within three and six miles of his own lines. "The Syrians are bringing in more tanks, more guns and more equipment," he said. "They are preparing for a real battle and I think it is directed not only against us, it is also directed against Israel." No immediate confirmation of his claims was available.

Before the interview took place, Major Haddad's militias had been involved in one of the worst artillery exchanges in the history of the Lebanon conflict, the heaviest since the ceasefire between the right-wing Christians and the Palestinian guerrillas began last August.

The firing lasted most of last night and resulted in the wounding of a number of Lebanese civilians, including three children.

It is known that the Israeli Cabinet received classified briefings on Syrian activities in Lebanon at its regular meeting yesterday. These were given by

Mr Ezer Weizman, the Defence Minister, Lieutenant-General Rafael Eitan, the Chief of Staff, and the chief of army intelligence.

The presence of the intelligence chief is an indication of the importance with which the issue is being treated, but no information has been released.

In a bland statement, Mr Arye Eliezer, the Cabinet secretary, told reporters: "The situation is of very great interest to us and we are observing developments with great care and vigilance."

Western diplomatic sources believe that the chances of a full-scale confrontation between Syria and Israel at present are remote. But there is concern in some Israeli circles about a possible escalation of incidents involving only Major Haddad's forces.

Disquiet about Syria's intentions has been increased by the three-day visit to Damascus this week by Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister. Commenting on the visit, Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, remarked that Mr Gromyko had promised help to Syria against an Israeli attack that had never been considered.

Speaking in Jerusalem, Mr Begin emphasized that Israel had no intention of attacking Syria.

Israel, he said, had to be on its guard because of the concentration of Syrian forces in Lebanon.

Controversy over Syrian military plans and manoeuvres has been simmering for the past two weeks. It was initially provoked when a senior Israeli army officer told a delegation of British politicians visiting the Golan Heights that President Assad was "interested in war with Israel, both because he wants to torpedo the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty and because of the shaky domestic situation".

American government sources were quick to point out that large Soviet arms shipments to Syria had been going on for some time and had not been increased since the Afghanistan crisis started.

Even before the present increase in tension many Israeli army commanders had been worried by the far-reaching improvements to the Syrian forces effected over the past six years.

According to one military expert, the number of tanks in Syria's arsenal has increased from 1,600 in 1973 to 2,200. The number of commando troops is said to have trebled and there has been heavy investment in air defences and aircraft, notably MIG 25s and Sukhoi 22 tactical combat aircraft.

Boeing hijacker surrenders at Beirut airport

Beirut, Jan 28.—A Lebanese man surrendered at Beirut airport today after hijacking a Middle East Airlines aircraft on a flight from Baghdad, security sources said.

The sources said the man, aged about 30, was armed with a knife when he seized the Boeing 720 on a scheduled flight to Beirut. His wife and four children were among the 126 passengers on board.

The hijacker, identified as Ali Issa, demanded further efforts to trace Imam Musa Sadr, the Lebanese Shiite Muslim leader, who disappeared after a visit to Libya in August 1978.

Mr Issa, who left the airplane after later called on the Islamic conference being held in Islamabad to discuss the Imam's disappearance.—Reuters.

Campaign to stop razing of tropical forests

By John Young

A campaign has been launched in London to save the world's remaining tropical forests from imminent destruction. It has the support of leading environmental advisers in the United Nations, the Commonwealth, Britain, the United States, Canada, West Germany and India.

Almost the entire issue of the bi-monthly magazine, *The Ecologist*, is devoted to the potentially disastrous effect of the deforestation of South America, West Africa and South-east Asia. Mr Edward Goldsmith, the magazine's editor, says that governments have not begun to recognize the extent of the threatened catastrophe.

Among the likely effects he lists are widespread soil

erosion, leading to the creation of new deserts; a general decrease in rainfall, with an accompanying increase in the earth's atmosphere; and an ever higher incidence of flooding caused by the run-off of rainwater from denuded hillsides.

In addition, Mr Goldsmith forecasts the destruction of the way of life of indigenous jungle inhabitants and their "systematic pauperization"; the disappearance of wildlife, including the tiger, the clouded leopard, the gorilla and the orang utan; and the loss of many of the world's tree and plant species.

Mankind, moreover, will be deprived of an "inestimable reservoir" of resources that could be exploited to provide new foods, medicines, textiles and raw materials.

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Battle lines are being drawn in El Salvador

From Alan Riding San Salvador, Jan 28

There can be no civil war here, El Salvador's new ruling junta has said, because no matter who wins it would mean the destruction of the country.

Yet, despite the optimism that a civil war can be averted, battle lines are being drawn by the left and right. In preparation and in extreme cases, some are concerned about the devastation and suffering that would almost certainly result.

Apparently blinded by simplistic analogies, the left points to the Sandinista last year as evidence that an armed struggle is feasible here, while the right says that a massacre of 30,000 communists in 1932 brought El Salvador years of peace.

While the Nicaraguan insurrection set an entire nation against a hated dictator and his National Guard, a conflict in El Salvador today would be a true civil war, with the many probably divided and many civilians fighting on each side.

Further, compared to the peasant rebels mowed down in 1932, the left-wing opposition today is large and well-armed. In one analogy with events though, the analogy with events in Nicaragua last year is valid. Once again, the international community seems to be waiting

until war starts before acting. Yet, even more than in Nicaragua, a civil war in El Salvador could compromise the entire central American isthmus.

ruled by the Army, believes that the domino effect of the Nicaraguan revolution must be stopped in El Salvador before it reaches its own territory. The Guatemalan Army, arguing that the battle for democracy must be fought in El Salvador, could therefore intervene to prevent a triumph by the left. The Sandinistas in Nicaragua might feel obliged to help El Salvador's rebels.

El Salvador is such a tiny, overcrowded country that a civil war would inevitably produce an exodus of tens of thousands of refugees to neighboring Guatemala and Honduras.

With the country already unable to feed itself, a conflict would also disrupt normal trade channels and bring widespread hunger. Some foreign analysts have predicted that El Salvador may become Central America's Kampuchea.

So far only the United States has made a timid effort to forestall a civil war, mainly by supporting the civilian-military junta that replaced the ultra-conservative regime of General Carlos Humberto Romero toppled on October 15.

Last week, as some Washington officials expressed alarm over the developing violence, Mr William Bowdler, an Assistant Secretary of State, who negotiated the departure of President Anastasio Somoza from Nicaragua last year, stopped off in San Salvador on a tour of Central American capitals.

But other countries that could have even greater influence over the polarized political forces of El Salvador, such as Mexico, Venezuela, Nicaragua and Guatemala, have made no attempt to mediate to find a peaceful solution. The Organization of American States which took up the Nicaraguan question only after the Sandinistas' final offensive was well under way last June, has said to recognize the crisis in El Salvador. Without some urgent outside initiative, the gathering forces of left and right seem set on armed confrontation.

Many local analysts believe that the last hope of peaceful change was lost in the weeks following the coup d'etat in October. The new coalition Government, although representing political groups of left and right, was paralyzed by internal differences. It collapsed on January 3 when the army refused to accept a faster pace of reform.

The two military members of

the five-man junta, Colonel Adolfo Arnoldo Majano and Colonel Jaime Abdul Gutiérrez, remained at their posts and eventually persuaded the Christian Democratic Party, whose victories in the 1972 and 1977 presidential elections had been blocked by fraud, to join a new government.

Before naming three civilians to the junta—Señor Antonio Morales Erlich and Señor Hector Dada Hirez, and Dr Ramon Avalos, an independent—the Christian Democrats demanded a commitment from the armed forces for sweeping reforms, including nationalization of private banks and foreign trade and expropriation of large private estates. These conditions were formally accepted, but the conservative military high command remained intact.

Opposition to the new junta from the left stems largely from disbelief that it can carry out the promised reforms or halt the Army's traditionally repressive response to popular movements. The right claims it would prefer armed conflict rather than surrender to the junta's communist reforms. Either left or right could spark a civil war, and the government seems too weak to stop it.—New York Times News Service.

Egyptians delay arrival of Israeli diplomats

From Moshe Brilliant Tel Aviv, Jan 28

Egypt last night asked the vanguard of the Israeli diplomatic mission to Cairo to postpone its arrival, due today.

The request was made, without explanation, just before midnight. Two diplomats and two secretaries accordingly unpacked their bags, but nine administrative and technical personnel flew to Egypt as planned to prepare the premises rented for an embassy.

The Egyptians have not yet chosen a site for their embassy in Tel Aviv, and a delegation that was to have looked for accommodation postponed its arrival until February 4.

Officials in Jerusalem expressed annoyance, but they did not regard the delays as a breach of the protocol annexed to the peace treaty. This provides for the establishment of diplomatic and consular relations and an exchange of ambassadors upon completion of Israel's interim withdrawal from Sinai, and that was completed on Friday.

Some observers here believe that the arrival of Israeli diplomats in Cairo while the Islamic foreign ministers were conferring in Islamabad would have been awkward for President Sadat.

President Sadat assured Mr Menachem Begin the Israeli Prime Minister, in a telephone call on Friday that he intended to implement all aspects of normalization of relations at one stroke in mid-February.

Egyptian and Israeli working groups began another round of talks on autonomy for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip here this evening. The outlook for an early breakthrough seemed bleak.

Cairo pledge: Egypt said today it would exchange ambassadors with Israel next month as scheduled despite the last-minute hitch over the arrival of an advance team of Israeli diplomats.

Foreign Ministry officials said ambassadors would be exchanged on February 26, as stipulated in the peace treaty last March.—Reuters.

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SPORT

Football

Bury hope to shake Liverpool off their step ladder

By Norman Fox

Football Correspondent

Liverpool, favourites to win this year's FA Cup and still hankering after the League Cup and Championship, are a demanding fourth round victory over the European champions, Nottingham Forest, to a home draw, to the lowest-placed survivors, Bury, at Anfield on February 16. For these mountaineers, football's peaks it may seem like ascending a grimace Hill by way of Everest.

Yet who has not heard of the club who fell off the step ladder, and after all Bury, third from the bottom of the third division, won such fame for their exploits early in this century that they became known as the "Shakers".

For the first time in their careers, Alan Kennedy, of Liverpool, and his brother Keith, who played for Bury, are in the same line "but" expressed the importance of the experience for his younger players. One hopes it does not last long to their confidence.

The draw for the fifth round did not give encouragement to Liverpool alone, it favoured one of the first division clubs with home advantage against teams from the lower divisions, this time thoughts that a high proportion of the lesser participants would reach the last eight, Arsenal, the holders, and the other two, on this occasion, having to travel to the now managerless Bolton Wanderers, whose form in the cup is less than stellar.

The tie still has a substantial ring about it and Arsenal will not be too confident as they were

held to a goalless draw at Burnden Park last October.

For some of those 11 second and third division teams who have clung on to reach the knockout, it is not the prospect of financial reward, Carlisle United and Wrexham, for example, in a fourth round replay, with the incentive of a match at Everton, and Watford, successful against Harlow Town, to Wolverhampton or Norwich, Chester, surprised visitors at Newcastle in the third round and convincing conquerors of Millwall on Saturday, now visit Ipswich Town where there is a mood of well-being after a worrying time before Christmas.

Aston Villa could be the second first division club facing an away match but first they have to overcome Cambridge United in a replay at Villa Park tomorrow. The winners of that match have the testing problem of visiting Blackpool, Coventry City were eliminated a week after beating Liverpool, Blackburn are well organized by Howard Kendall who, seemingly only yesterday, was scampering around Wembley as a 17-year-old Preston North End player. That team, the great West Ham United, with a decorated veteran young team continuing players Ron Greenwood still extols.

West Ham themselves are still hoping to reach the last eight, especially now that they have a home tie with Swansea City, a team who, in the fourth round, they will be at home to Birmingham City, another attractive prospect.

Swindon, in tomorrow's replay at White Hart Lane, they will be at home to Birmingham City, another attractive prospect. The holders, Arsenal, are in the fourth round, and Southampton, who have a home tie with the less than stellar Bolton Wanderers, whose form in the cup is less than stellar.

The tie still has a substantial ring about it and Arsenal will not be too confident as they were

FA Cup, fifth round draw

Blackburn Rovers v Cambridge United or Aston Villa
Bolton Wanderers v Arsenal
Everton v Carlisle United or Wrexham
Ipswich Town v Chester
Liverpool v Bury
Swindon Town or Tottenham Hotspur v Birmingham City
West Ham United v Swansea City
Wolverhampton Wanderers or Norwich City v Watford.
Ties to be played on February 16.

Greenwood can open door to outsiders

The England manager, Ron Greenwood, will open the door to at least two outsiders today when he names his party for the European championship game against the Republic of Ireland at Wembley on February 6. With England already through to the final in Italy this summer he can afford a few experiments and his release of Shilton, Anderson and Francis to play for Nottingham Forest in their Super Cup game in Barcelona, suggests he is open-minded.

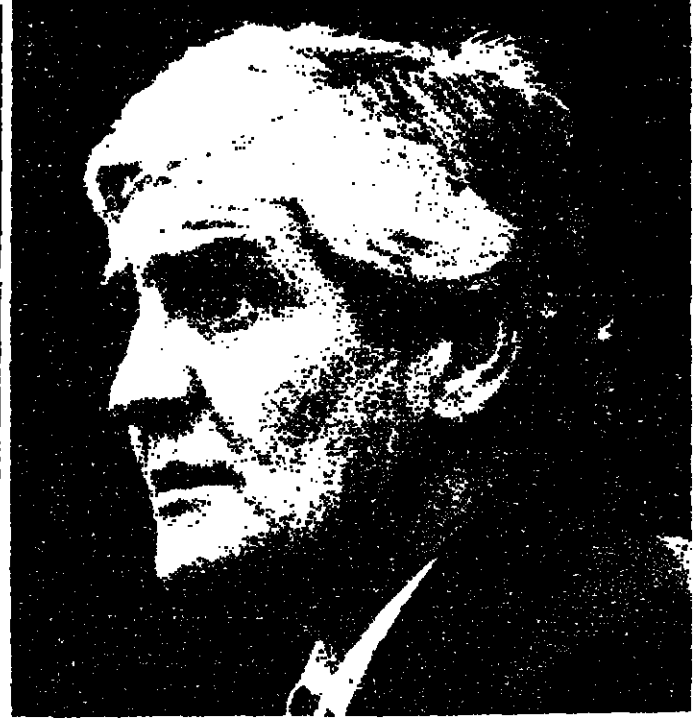
Keegan, injured at the weekend, must be doubtful and Reeves is not yet back to full fitness so will probably be at least one new striker. He could come from Boyer (Southampton) or Johnson (Liverpool), whose cup scores in the first division with 20 goals each, while Sunderland (Arsenal) is another who could get a chance to earn a trip to Italy. There are two more openings. West Bromwich's poor form this season has not hidden the ability of young strikers like Robson, while another England under-21 player, Williams, has played an important part in Southampton's success. He is a 22-year-old striker, who could be released from Cologne and Cunningham, in particular, must arrive for the match, which is to be a member of the party.

England's lot to kick off against the clock

Rome, Jan 28.—Italy were given a big advantage over England today when the kick-off times for the final stages of the European championship were announced. The host nation will complete their group on June 18 in Rome against Belgium, kicking off at 8.30 pm local time (7.30 GMT)—one hour after the end of England's match in Naples against Spain (kick-off 4.45 GMT).

England and Italy are expected to dominate group one, but the host nation will complete their group on June 18 in Rome against Belgium, kicking off at 8.30 pm local time (7.30 GMT)—one hour after the end of England's match in Naples against Spain (kick-off 4.45 GMT).

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Greaves: learnt to take the rough with the smooth.

Timing, not the sacking surprises Greaves

By Norman Fox

With the extraordinary timing of the football clubs so often observe, Bolton Wanderers yesterday sacked their manager, Ian Greaves, just before the draw for the fifth round of the FA Cup gave them a lucrative home match with Arsenal.

Mr Greaves, who has been in the first division since the over-riding move.

Bolton are living uneasily and have no serious chance of avoiding relegation, with or without a new manager. They have won only one league match this season.

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Worthington who then went to the United States and returned some way below his best form.

He bought Camacho and Clement to move the team to find the first division beyond their capabilities. Typically, Mr Greaves dismissed his assistant manager, taking over until a new manager is appointed.

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Tennis
McEnroe finishes on a jaded note

From Rex Bellamy

Tennis Correspondent

Philadelphia, Jan 28.—Jimmy Connors and the doubles team of Peter Fleming and John McEnroe won the United States professional indoor tennis championships here yesterday. Another American, John Sadri, will remember this as the tournament in which he blasted his way to the final as a potential top-seeded.

Connors, who won the title, was the week following the final, the second late last November and McEnroe was second runner-up. But Connors' victory was not without its cost.

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Rugby Union

By David Hands

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Athletics

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Cash prizes proposed by working party

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One Englishman in Wales stands by for another

By David Hands

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For Watson an ending with a cautionary tale

By David Hands

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THE ARTS

Misapprehensions of modernism

Stephen Edlich
Marlborough Fine ArtContemporary
Yugoslav Art
Mall GalleriesImages I
Goethe InstituteScottie Wilson
Margaret Fisher

Though we are now in the 1980s, we still do not seem, somehow, to have quite got used to the idea that we are in the twentieth century at all. There are still critics and artists who will cheerfully dismiss as mad young tearaways, bent on demolishing the very fabric of art, people the very fabric of whose births we have already celebrated. One often meets self-styled art lovers who readily claim not to understand all this obscure modern stuff, thus writing off as incomprehensibly advanced works which were created years before they were born. What was experimental in 1910 is still experimental, and seems likely to remain so indefinitely: the tradition of the "modern" is now as rigid and codified as the tradition of the traditional.

A point nicely taken in the current exhibition of the work of Stephen Edlich, a New York artist in his mid-thirties who specializes, at the moment, in mixed-media works (some of them rather large) which are all abstract, or on the brink of abstraction, and all contain at least an element of collage. So, evidently, he is—must be—one of those difficult, experimental, in a word modern artists. In response Mr Edlich mildly, on the contrary, he is a very traditional, one might almost now say classical artist. After all, he is representative of a good, long established tradition. Braque and Picasso and Gris were using collage to similar effect in their analytical cubist years before the First World War. From another direction, Schwitters and his fellow Dadaists were arriving at a rather similar result with assemblages of papers and objects nearly years ago. And by a third perspective, Ben Nicholson was working with very slight variations of this approach—in the early 1930s. (One might also add that even such an approachable, apparently Establishment artist as John Piper has been bringing these same elements together in different proportions for going on fifty years now, and no one seems to turn a hair.)

So, then, at least Mr Edlich has academically excellent credentials. Yet the proof of an artist's work is not what went in, but what comes out. And here Edlich scores heavily. He



Persecution by Vladimir Velickovic (1977), from Contemporary Yugoslav Art

has an admirable colour sense—his strong on ochres and ambers, browns and golds and fauns relieved with strong clear greens and shimmering black-blues. And, which is always a good sign, in his work the bigger the better: whereas many large paintings tend to feel uncomfortably like small paintings mechanically blown up to impress, he occupies a large area with total confidence. I particularly enjoy his works nearest to actual representation, especially the series which hint at open doors and half-glanced arches and trees beyond. At least, I think they do, and appreciate the ambiguity of my own insights.

The show of Contemporary Yugoslav Art, sponsored in this country by the British Council, does not in any way make the kind of unified or coherent impression one might expect from its simple title. The selectors suggest, modestly, that though it can hardly be comprehensive, considering the enormous amount of artistic activity going on in Yugoslavia at the moment, its selection of 105 works by 26 artists does try to present some kind of cross-section of what Yugoslav artists are doing and how they are doing it. If this is indeed so, we might assume that little if any modern art in Yugoslavia has a specifically local character—the nearest I could see is the work of one painter, Jose Guba, whose graphic style slightly suggests the films of the famous Zagreb cartoon studios—and that they do not go much on photo-realism—there is

only one artist, Safet Zec, who even remotely touches on that area.

Otherwise, abstraction seems to be popular—hard-edged, organic or whatever—there is interesting work being done in fibre art and kindred areas, and the variety is extreme. Also the quality. But there are at least a couple of artists whose work is really striking, and that is about as much as one can ask in any comparable miscellany. The painter whose work comes right off the wall and grabs you is Vladimir Velickovic. His large, almost completely black-and-white canvases (with the occasional touch of red for blood) sometimes present scenes of violence in action, like the big Persecution triptych, which shows a man being pursued and finally brought down by sinister rattlelike animals the size of small dogs. But it may be violence already happened, like *Lieu IV* (a parietal member body on a slab) or just an atmosphere of suppressed violence, like *Lieu V*, in which odds and ends of vase and metal and other rubbish against a grey wall create a decidedly sinister effect. It might just be a corner of a garden shed, but somehow you know very clearly that it is not.

I was also struck by Adriana Maraz's large colour etchings of vaguely humanoid figures, Mersed Berber's *Infante Mar* garb with their jewel-like colouring, somewhat suggestive of an icon, applied improbably but with seeming naturalness to their Spanish subject-matter,

and Slavko Tibe's sculptures in bronze, wood or polyester. These are very difficult to describe adequately: elaborate illusionist constructions, they use the techniques of wood or steel engraving on a very large scale, dimensionally, to create images of figures within single planes. That probably does not make much sense unless you have seen one, but the effect in their presence is quite hallucinatory.

I am not sure that I would say so much of "the Hamburg art scene" on the strength of Part I of the Goethe Institute's current exploration, which features two artists, Adam Janowski and Konrad Schulz (two more who occupy the same work-space will follow in February). They are not bad, mind you, but their work is rather the small change of art such as one could probably find in virtually any European city of any size. Janowski is an exponent of photo-realism, painting in painstaking detail on quite sizable canvases what appear to be very accurate and detailed reproductions of photographs, including all the out-of-focus areas. He was a founder of the "Montag" group, concerned "in an experimental way with everyday problems", whatever that may mean. Schulz is more interesting, particularly in his slightly surrealist objects, like the door of a phone booth shaped into a chair (called, naturally enough, *Sitting Door*) or the brooms and spades which have themselves adopted a sitting position on a park bench. But again, his drawings of crowd violence and his work with photo-collages is capable but hardly more than routine.

Quite the contrary—in fact very odd indeed—is the body of work on show in Margaret Fisher's enterprising house-gallery at 2 Lambholt Road. Scottie Wilson was a primitive who did not try his hand at art at all until he was 40. After the war he was taken up by the English Surrealists, and last year he turned up in the slightly ambiguous context of the *Outsiders* show at the Hayward, among the naïf, the faux-naïf, the visionary and the psychotic. Actually he was a bit of all of these things (psychotic, and is not entirely at home with any of them). The drawings, water-colours and ceramics in the present one-man show offer an amazingly consistent, virtually unchanging vision: the faces and fishes and footings, the spindly, bird-like figures with strong unconscious sexual undertones are all rendered in the same web of fine lines, the same obsessive herringbone patterning and, when colour is used, the same bright peasant palette. Though some of the drawings (mostly early, it seems) are a touch sinister, for the most part it is a happy little world, out there on its own somewhere, east of the sun, west of the moon, and just south of Belsize Square.

John Russell Taylor

Tingay/Heath
Purcell Room

Frank Dobbins

The flute and harp are natural partners: but besides their romantic origin and complementary acoustical qualities the repertoire of music specifically conceived for the duet combination is somewhat limited. Thus in their quest for variety David Heath (flute) and Gillian Tingay (harp), who had collaborated in a concert at the Purcell Room last year, were compelled to cast their nets widely.

They began their concert on Saturday with a sonata by Telemann originally written for flute and continuo; this proved an invidious choice since the harp's notes resonate too freely for the clarity required in the contrapuntal lines of fugal allegros.

Mr Heath showed a greater sense of style in Charles Widor's "Suite" for Flute and Piano which, despite the neobaroque implications of its title, is a late romantic fantasy which proves a fit vehicle for the performer's considerable virtuosity. A certain flexibility, perhaps born of his experience in jazz, lent much charm to his interpretation of two Japanese folksongs arranged for flute and harp and of his own "Out of the cool".

The harp support returned in two more idiomatic French pieces—Berlioz's *Entrée des Gosses* and Debussy's *Jeune fille*—as well as a wistful arrangement of Ravel's *Pavane pour une infante défunte*. But Gillian Tingay revealed her mastery most impressively in solos by John Parry, Niall Rota and a Basque composer blessed with the name Jesus Guridi.

There was some appreciable singing from the London Symphony Chorus, much striking artistry from the LSO; the finest music-making, closest to what I conceive as the essential Mozart, came from Margaret Price in "Et incarnatus est", and in the haunting phrases of "Christe eleison" and from Fredericka von Stade in "Laudamus te", the rhythm and divisions dubious, the tone and expression perfectly ideal.

Abbadó's account of the *Jupiter* was, for me, much too formal, unwilling to delve into the personal mysteries of the music, content to characterize the material and balance it neatly.

September 13, but Tchaikovsky on May 7 should be good news for the box-office. The LSO chose for Mozart's birthday concert the very last symphony, the *Jupiter*, and the greatest of his sacred works, the C minor Mass, which with Constantine Weir, who sang the wonderful "Et incarnatus est" in the first performance.

That the C minor Mass has come down to us, incomplete never bothers me in performance. The authentic portions, in Robbins Landon's modern edition (normally used these days), make a satisfactory integer, more satisfactory than the usual version of the also incomplete *Requiem*, a less successful torso, I think.

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Accolades have lately fallen thick upon Peter Maxwell Davies: he has been chosen as "composer of the year" by the Composers' Guild, as director of music at Darrington Summer School and as guest of honour at this year's Edinburgh Festival, besides acquiring a couple of honorary doctorates. None counts for more in the broader context, however, than the commission of his second symphony as one of the major events in the centenary season of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. It will be given its world premiere under Seiji Ozawa in February next year. The large and growing number of performances of Maxwell Davies' music in America (and the amount of tentative playing and empty space at the Festival Hall last week for his *Second Tavener Fantasia*) suggest that this prophet is not without honour save in those parts of his own country where technique and taste slightly lag.

The American connexion goes back as far as Darrington in 1956, when Maxwell Davies was no more than 22. There he met Aaron Copland, who was sufficiently impressed by the Five Pieces for Piano, opus 2, to suggest study in the United States and to offer a reference. Copland's interest was no doubt partly responsible for the commission, two years later, of *Ricercar* and *Doubles* for the Dartmouth Festival. Soon Maxwell Davies took up Copland's offer, and in 1962 he started a two-year Harkness Fellowship at Princeton, the other referee being Benjamin Britten. He won a Koussevitzky Recording Award after the issue of his *Leopardi Fragments*; the Koussevitzky Foundation thus commissioned *Revelation and Fall*—which it thought impossible to sing, play and conduct until, ironically, it heard a British commercial recording.

Subsequently Maxwell Davies has taught and heard his work played at Tanglewood—a place with strong ties to Boston—and Aspen; but the clincher, from the viewpoint of the American musical world, came with his first symphony. Triumphant premiered by the Philharmonia Orchestra and Simon Rattle in London just two years ago, in October 1978 it was given two performances by the New York Philharmonic and Zubin Mehta. Still glowing from the general reception, Maxwell Davies returned to his self-imposed isolation in Orkney, where he writes his music undisturbed by so much as a telephone.

"It was in Orkney that I received a telegram from Ozawa, saying would I please ring him on this Boston number. Now that does present difficulties. But I went over to the main island to do some shopping, and I phoned him, and he said: 'Would you like to write a piece for us?' We arranged to meet

Maxwell Davies and the Boston birthday symphony



Photograph by Jonathan Player

at the Edinburgh Festival last year, we talked about it, and then, at a party for the Boston Symphony Orchestra, he told them about the commission. A lot of the orchestra came up and talked to me about pieces of mine they had played in, and they seemed very keen on the idea.

For the moment Maxwell Davies has too much other work to begin the new symphony; he intends to start it in April and finish in October, finding time for Darrington and the Orkney Festival in between. The delay is frustrating. "It's going to be on the same kind of scale as the other symphony" (which is for large orchestra and lasts the best part of an hour). "I'm completely obsessed by the opening, which is going round and round in my head. There's this great swirling string sound, and some trumpet strokes, and then eventually the trumpets come in. . . . In some ways it's going to be very much like another Boston commission, Barok's Concerto for Orchestra. In one sense it is going to be a concerto for orchestra. I'm

really going to write some virtuosic stuff; there's a big difference between something that's virtuosic and something that's 'virtuoso'—difficult but which repays the effort the players put into it. And Boston will be able to play it."

The orchestration of the first symphony was unusual for the fact that the percussion included only those instruments playing definite pitches (glockenspiel and so on), which were given fiendishly difficult parts, and for the absence of a tuba. "The tuba percussion will be like the first symphony only more so. As for the tuba, I remember going once to Covent Garden to see *Taverner* and the noises that came out of the pit put me off ever using the instrument again."

Most of Maxwell Davies' major pieces tend, in total effect, to be bitter and menacing; will the second symphony, for a great festive occasion, be similar? "I don't know yet. I'm not going to set out to write something that's jolly-hockey-sticks. But when I was listening to Mozart's *Requiem* the other night I thought, here's something that's all about death but, my God, it's a life-giving piece."

Maxwell Davies' works have all sorts of subtle interrelationships. Commentators have seen the first symphony as the culmination of a sort of "hyper-symphony", the earlier "movements" being *World's Blis*, *St Thomas Wake* and *Stone Litanies*; and have seen his music as two interlinked solar systems revolving around *Taverner* and the first symphony. The second symphony, the composer claims, will have no deliberate relationship to what has gone before: "Nothing specific. Except that having written the first symphony I know better what I can do and how to do it. The first symphony was the best composition lesson I ever had . . . and rather a long one."

Before the second symphony we shall hear *Cinderella*, a children's opera for the primary school at Kirkwall, and *The Lighthouse*, a chamber opera recalling the mysterious disappearance of lighthousemen off Stromness in 1900. Both are full-length works and will be given this year respectively at the Orkney (and Buxton) and Edinburgh Festivals. Also in hand is *Black Pentecost*, a 35-minute work for three voices and full orchestra which bears "a rather tenuous relationship" to the withdrawn orchestral piece of the same name which was the germ of the first symphony. This has a text by George Mackay Brown about uranium-mining in Orkney and is "frankly a propaganda piece" the Philharmonia has scheduled it for 1981, again with Simon Rattle. Other commitments include a piano sonata for Stephen Pruslin to play at the 1981 Bath Festival.

And always there remains a relationship, warm on both sides but not exactly steady, with Covent Garden. There would like Maxwell Davies to write another opera—he has almost completed the text for one to be called *Resurrection*—or a ballet or both. He makes no secret that, as a priority, he would like them to revive *Taverner*, premiered by the Royal Opera in 1972, preferably in a production nearer his original wishes, and to stage Salome, the ballet for Flemming Flindt, which had such a sensational success through 90 performances in Copenhagen and of which an independent London run last year fell through for lack of funds. Throughout Europe, as far away as Australia and New Zealand, in the States of course—and what an exciting new recognition this is for British music—Maxwell Davies is seen as representing what is currently the best we can do; it could only be to the good if his wares were also on display at our leading house.

Christopher Ford

Lontano Ensemble
ICA

Paul Griffiths

I was prepared for a stimulating concert at the Institute of Contemporary Arts on Sunday. There were four works on the programme, all by composers in their late twenties, or thereabouts, all being played for the first time, at least in this country. It ought to have been a time for fresh voices to make themselves heard. It ought to have been an occasion for pondering the musical issues of a new generation. It was, in fact, terrible.

First off the mark was Raymond Deane, with his *Lich-*

ving for cello and piano, which left an initial impression of competent mediocrity, but which by the end of the evening had come to seem a near-masterpiece, so far did it outshine anything that followed. The charms of its memory are, however, fading as I write, and I return sadly to a more sober judgment.

Brian Noyes is an obverse case, for his *Voyages* contained manifest miscalculations of instrumental texture, besides being long-winded, often unsure of its direction, and unable to decide on a coherent harmonic style. Yet for all that there was the sense of something pressing to be heard through the fog of technical mismanagement.

It is possible that Noyes is a composer struggling to be born, but I can hold no such hopes

of Sinan Savaskan, whose "Many Stares Through Semi-Nocturnal Zeiss Blik" was a slender essay in Cage-style spare purposelessness, with a fair measure of unpleasant sounds, sustained to the point of nausea. But perhaps it is harder to forgive Jane Wells for her "Under The Redwood Tree" since she at least was trying. Taking words from Elizabeth Smart's *By Grand Central Station, I Sat Down and Wept*, her piece was a string of clichés of contemporary vocal writing, with thin, instrumental support. In some bizarre gesture of artistic suicide, she added a lurid lighting scheme, which very nearly masked even the sympathetic care of Karen Jensen and the long-suffering Lontano Ensemble.

The reason for that supposition is that Sanderling is not a conductor to assault his audience by the emotions; his suave, refined manner is of the kind that repays close attention and long acquaintance. His last was not, therefore, a titanic affair, but a measured, well-considered one that nevertheless ascended to quite thrilling peaks in the choral finale. For that, some of the credit must go to the Philharmonia Chorus and to the strong but pleasantly smooth-grained team of soloists: Sally Burgess, Carolyn Watkinson, Robin Leggate and Malcolm King.

The Choral Fantasia is a work easier to mock for its falling just short of heroic stature than to justify in performance. With John Lill as soloist, Sanderling succeeded admirably, refraining from making too much of obvious gestures in order to produce the big effect when he required it.

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LSO/Abbado
Festival Hall

William Mann

Sunday was Mozart's birthday, his 224th. Claudio Abbado and the London Symphony Orchestra, having the Festival Hall for the evening, very properly devoted the programme to Mozart's music. I hope that the idea may catch on. March 21 should be given to the works of J. S. Bach, February 23 to Handel, March 31 to Haydn, December 16 to Beethoven, January 31 to Schubert, and so on. We owe much to them, concert-promoters even more so let us observe their birthdays, as the Roman Catholic Church does its Saints' days. You might not have a full house for Schoenberg on

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SOUTHERN TELEVISION

Bernard Levin

By definition, a word to the unwise

Father Dudko:
the flower of Russia's
'religious spring'

Father Dimitri Dudko's fame as a preacher rests on his readiness to apply Christian teaching to every problem which worries Russians today—and in a land where the state sees itself as the all-sufficient provider, controversy is inevitable.

He spent eight and a half years in a labour camp and says: "I went in an unbeliever and in bad health. I came out a believer and in strong health". He achieved prominence through a series of "question-and-answer" sessions, unique for the Soviet Union, which he held in his Moscow church in 1973-74. State pressure quickly led to his being transferred outside the city.

In 1976, after recovering from a serious car accident in which there may have been KGB complicity, he was moved to Grebnevo, some miles from Moscow, where he was arrested on January 15. He is now in Lefortovo prison.

Here are some extracts from his preaching and conversations: "A religious spring has begun here. Its still weak, but it will come... I try to be with God, and I believe in victory. I believe with no doubts at all. If I perish physically because of this, the victory will just come more quickly."

"Question: Where do people believe better, in Russia or the West? Answer: Everyone wants people to believe better where he himself lives. I'm a Russian and I'd like to think the best of Russia. I know there are more believers in the West, but remembering Christ's words about the 'little flock' upon which He leans, I'd say that if you want to believe in Russia you've got to stand there next to Christ as He's nailed to the cross. In Russia today that's the only way you can believe... Although there aren't so many believers in Russia, there are enough to hoist unbelieving Russia on to their shoulders and place it at the foot of Christ's cross."

Most of Father Dudko's preaching has an utter simplicity which is easy to scorn, until one actually tries to do as he says: "In order to follow Christ, one must first of all have a pure heart, without lusts and delusions. What lusts and delusions do we not have today?"

A person is offended with someone and cannot forgive him. He constantly seeks out ways to vex his enemy. Another looks for ways to drink, to deceive his wife and friends; he has lost his will. Another seems

to have an insignificant attachment—a tiny cigarette—but it has so subjugated him that he cannot live without it... We must seek the Kingdom of God and his righteousness... We should develop the spirit, by fasting and prayer...

Atheism is officially propagated by every means in the USSR, while the Church can speak only within church buildings. But Father Dudko points out that: "It doesn't take much to become an atheist today. Master a few prepared phrases, swim with the current, and you're an atheist. On the other hand, to be a believer you have to know a lot... You have to swim against the current... Atheism is like an atom of evil undergoing fission. Moral, domestic and social disintegration results. People not only don't believe in God; they don't believe each other either. By undermining faith in God, atheism has also undermined all bases of social life. The destruction of churches in our country... immorality, the collapse of the family, criminality and hooliganism—these are the fruits of atheism... But I don't think this will go on much longer... There are believers everywhere—among scholars, as well as the simple in learned institutions, in workers' organizations, among party members and non-party people. During my priestly ministry I'm sure I've baptized at least 5,000 adults."

In almost every sermon Father Dudko refers to the key problems of Soviet society: the high divorce rate, widespread alcoholism, hooliganism and criminality among the young. His solution is a stable family life.

He once said to a western visitor: "A concentration camp is not the worst thing that can happen." In his sermon he continued: "If they forbid me to preach from the pulpit, I'll speak from outside it. If they throw me in jail, I'll preach even there. The atheists can speak anywhere—in the newspapers, in films, in all the clubs. But we can't even speak in church?"

Compiled by Jane Ellis and the staff of Keston College, Kent, which researches on religion in communist countries.

Quotations are from Our Hope (slightly adapted) by Father Dimitri Dudko, St Vladimir's Seminary Press, New York, 1977, a collection of sermons published by the Brotherhood of St Job of Pochaev, Montreal, and private sources.

Jane Ellis

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You will scarcely believe this, but Mr Shloimovitz is still at it. Of course, if you don't know who Mr Shloimovitz is, you will not know what is the it that he is at, so I had better explain, though you will find a comprehensive account of The Story So Far on pp 210-213 of my recently-published book, *Taking Sides*, Jonathan Cape, signed copies available from Times Special Offers. Selective Market Place, 18 Ogle Street, London, W1. £6.50 post free, regret no reduction for quantity (advert).

Mr Shloimovitz has for years and years been campaigning against the inclusion in English dictionaries of derogatory definitions of the word "Jew". As any literate person will know, the word has been used, over the centuries, as a synonym for nouns such as "usurer" and "money-lender", and verbs such as "cheat" and "do down", and dictionaries have therefore included them, since a dictionary's function is to record words that exist, and not just words the existence of which causes no offence. This last point is the one that Mr Shloimovitz has been entirely unable to grasp; he has convinced himself that words which cause offence to people who, over the centuries, have suffered from a great deal of offence, much of it by no means confined to the verbal variety, should be banned whether they are used or not. He argues that the preservation of defamatory racial stereotypes by the use of these words helps to perpetuate also anti-semitic attitudes, and therefore that their exclusion from dictionaries will reduce the incidence of anti-semitism.

That, of course, is not only sense, but nonsense of a peculiarly

modern kind. Anti-semitism is not caused by words (God knows—if, indeed, even He does—what it is caused by), and will not be cured by them, either, and much the same goes for the belief that sex discrimination will likewise be diminished by replacing such now offensive terms as "man" and "woman" by "person".

It is not only nonsense, and peculiarly modern nonsense; it is peculiarly modern American nonsense. Such is the terror experienced by the American liberal establishment at the slightest clearing of the throat by any group sufficiently vociferous and well-organized to suggest publicly that the American liberal establishment might be less liberal than it would like to be thought, that they have already reached a position in which committees exist to vet for propriety proposals for university research, lest someone might come up, for instance, with findings that support the work on matters of genetics and intelligence of social scientists like Professors Evenden and Shockley.

Gallop across, ye fiery-footed steeds; the same tendencies can be seen in this country (has anybody ever explained why it is that we always seem to borrow the worst of America, never her best?). And it is in the exploitation of one particular variety of the tendencies in question that Mr Shloimovitz has been indefatigable for so long. (I acquit him, of course, of any motive other than the one he professes: to diminish the amount and extent of cruel and unjustified opprobrium for his people—who are, after all, my people too.)

Mr Shloimovitz fought a notable battle with the OED, its Supplements and

progeny, and a compromise, which I hailed as an admirable one in the column herebeforementioned, was reached: Big Daddy and his sons would retain the meanings that so offend Mr Shloimovitz and those who think like him (and incidentally you don't have to be a Jew to find anti-semitism disgusting and dangerous), but would signal clearly, with such references as "derogatory", "offensive" or the familiar "vulgar" that these uses, though they undoubtedly exist, should not be found on the lips or in the pens of any decent person. The OED, after all, omitted from its original edition all the words gross referring to the sexual and excretory functions, but time passed and they are now learnedly discussed in the Supplements. It is made clear on their behalf, too, that such words are not for polite society, and that should be enough for anybody.

But it is not enough for Mr Shloimovitz, who has gone on campaigning to have the offensive words removed from dictionaries altogether, and has now scored a notable, and in my opinion most lamentable, victory over Cassell's, which has removed them from the new edition of its English dictionary. (Cassell's is part of the American firm of Macmillan, though I am assured that the policy was not imposed on it.)

This really will not do. It is a fact that many people do use the word "Jew" in unqualifiedly pejorative meanings. Until that ceases to be a fact it seems to me a lexicographer's inescapable function to include such meanings. The duty of a dictionary, unlike that of a

treatise, or for that matter a newspaper column, is to record what is, not what is the opinion of the author ought to be, and that duty Cassell's seem to me to have failed in this instance to discharge.

And this matters—in my view it matters very much—for two reasons. The first is that, paradoxical though it may sound, this decision is part of the increasing impoverishment of our language—as, indeed, are such horrible neologisms as "chairperson" and "spokesperson". The use of the verb "to Jew", meaning to drive a hard bargain, is undoubtedly offensive; at the same time it is an illustration, and a not entirely unimportant one, of a certain kind of demotic speech which is fast disappearing under the standardizing influences of television, bad newspapers, politicians and what now passes in this country for education. You may say that this kind of usage is the bath-water, and no doubt it is; but there is no way, in the long run, of retaining the baby if we throw it out.

It is a sin against linguistic integrity; it is a crime against the language's health; but it is something else, much worse than either.

For where do we stop? If such words must be banned from dictionaries, should they not logically be banned from other books? Ought not Cassell's to scrutinize their novels, say, to see whether some low character is not talking in language that he will not find in Cassell's dictionary? And if you think that that is too fanciful an idea to be considered, consider this: there has already been a libel action in this

country, one of the most disgraceful in recent years (which is saying a very great deal indeed), in which an undoubtedly reputable charity sued a publisher for a reference by one of the characters in a novel which suggested that members of the organization in question were making money out of it. The character in the book was, and was clearly shown to be, insane; nonetheless, the charity brought suit, and the publisher did not even defend the case.

That built a slippery slope if anything ever did; not long afterwards a hotel and restaurant guide brought a similarly infamous case, again for a reference, manifestly meant to be regarded as absurd, which cast an unjustified slur on that firm's integrity. I do not know whether Mr Shloimovitz wants to censor novels as well as dictionaries, whether he would wish publishers to excise anti-semitic language in the mouths of anti-semitic fictional characters, and I do not know whether, if he would so wish, publishers would accede to his request. Until recently, I would have regarded any suggestion that they might as ludicrous. But until recently I would have regarded as no less ludicrous the suggestion that a reputable publishing house would accept such self-censorship as Cassell's has instituted on its *English Dictionary*. I hope no more British publishers will sither down this absurd idea. I hope that Cassell's, when it comes to a new edition, will think again. Mr Shloimovitz means well, without doubt; but, without doubt, he does ill.

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Henry Stanhope, Defence Correspondent, on the welfare aspect of the Army's role in Rhodesia

Setting up
a health service
in the bush

Dzapezi, Southern Rhodesia

Only a month ago Surgeon Lieutenant-Commander Paul Clarke was consultant physician at the Haslar naval hospital in Gosport, Hampshire. Today he operates from a tent at this isolated outpost near the border with Mozambique, the only qualified doctor thousands of sick Africans in the surrounding kraals have seen for several years.

His primary responsibility is the health of 50 British soldiers here at Foxtrox assembly area, one of the 14 locations where 21,000 members of the Patriotic Front have gathered under the Lancaster House agreement in preparation for next month's elections.

In addition he has to ensure the overall health of the 6,000 members of the Zimbabwe National Liberation Army (Zanla) at this, the biggest of all the assembly areas.

But like all the doctors and medical assistants flown out by the Ministry of Defence to the Commonwealth, Mr Clarke is increasingly involved in caring for thousands of Africans whose own clinics have closed down

one by one because of the fighting in Southern Rhodesia.

Every morning, before the January temperature reaches its midday peak of more than 100°F in the shade, more than 200 chattering patients queue up before his tent on the edge of the bush to confront him with a variety of cases not normally seen at Gosport.

Only one in four belongs to the Patriotic Front, whose members are by and large fit young men. Fewer still are British soldiers, who have been vaccinated against yellow fever, smallpox, cholera, tetanus and typhoid before leaving Britain and whose standards of hygiene in this hostile terrain are carefully monitored.

Most are mothers and children, and some have trekked 20 miles through the bush on hearing that a doctor is "in town".

There are about 50 cases of malaria a day to deal with, reflecting the virulence of the local mosquitoes. Other diseases include tuberculosis, bilharzia, syphilis and scabies, which is so common among children that Lieutenant-Commander Clarke and his small team are



Captain Jonathan Bailey with an African patient. Photograph: Brian Harris.

planning to set up a special tent to deal with them.

So far cholera, which the doctors have dreaded most, has been kept away by assiduous purification of the water sup-

plies, coupled with a campaign to persuade the Patriotic Front camps to drink the water issued to them and no other.

The Army is already withdrawing some of its doctors because they are needed by their own battalions at home,

an expert in tropical medicine, as well as other members of the medical teams sent here.

The Army is already withdrawing some of its doctors because they are needed by their own battalions at home,

and the four doctors and nine medical orderlies supplied for the group by the Navy are under similar pressures.

Next week the International Red Cross starts to assume responsibility for the health of the Patriotic Front, with the help of helicopter-borne medical teams. Service doctors, however, who have been saddened by the lack of provision for the isolated African villages, doubt if the Red Cross can cope with this amount of work that needs to be done.

The answer must ultimately lie with the Rhodesian authorities, but progress in restoring the medical services lost during the war has so far been slow. Not that the Foxtrox assembly area, cared for by a mixed team of Irish Guards, Coldstream Guards and Royal Green Jackets, is a gloomy place.

The Zanla soldiers, as in other areas, are suspicious and unpredictable. But for most of the time relations between the British and themselves are cordial enough.

Today they were playing football against each other on a hard dusty pitch, while hundreds of Zanla supporters ringing the sidelines clapped and cheered. So far the British have won one match and Zanla the other—which perhaps is just as well.

Foxtrox is also unique in having a Zanla women's battalion of 300, living on its own in what passes for perfect propriety. The RAF recently delivered 300 pairs of frilly pink knickers for them, a gift which the guardsmen say, was warmly received.

Animal experiments: will the law go too far?

People concerned with animal welfare are being increasingly heard, to the point where in some cases they have been accompanied by demonstrations and militant action. There are many facets to this subject, ranging from the implied cruelties of so-called farm animal experiments, to the transport of farm animals for slaughter and the conservation of endangered species.

These interests have been taken up by a bewildering variety of national and international committees and associations, so that it is not obvious who is campaigning for what.

The whole issue is made more complicated by a common assumption of the more extreme agitators that only they are concerned with the welfare of animals. Farmers who keep livestock intensively, however, and scientists who perform animal experiments, are aware of the welfare components of these problems, but they start with the view that food must be produced cheaply and efficiently (and that many people will continue to eat meat) and that experiments with animals

are essential, both to advance basic knowledge (the fruits of which are often surprisingly unpredictable) and to protect not only man but animals themselves.

Discusses of animals cannot be studied and understood, nor can drugs and vaccines be developed against them, without some degree of experimentation. On the side of the case is less often heard, however, and when it is, the presentation can sound dull and judicial. A recent Home Office report (on the LD50 test, which is widely used to screen toxic substances) argues that cruelty arises "when the pain and suffering caused by the consequential 'good' and continues: 'In applying this criterion, there must be assumed a presumption in favour of humans over animals, and while it is not legitimate to use one human being, without his consent, as a means to another's end it is, within limits, legitimate to use animals for human ends."

Perhaps the two main welfare areas where matters are coming to the boil are intensive livestock practices and experiments. The most criticized feature of modern farming are the confinement of sows in tethers or stalls, the housing of poultry layers in cages (along with debarking) and some aspects of intensive veal production. Many farmers are concerned about these trends, and veterinarians working in the pig and poultry industries are sometimes uneasy at what they see.

"This assumption lies behind our use of animals and their products as food, our exclusion of animals from their natural environment for the benefit of humans, our treatment of certain animals as pests or vermin, our preferential treatment of humans in the competition for scarce resources. If there were not some such general assumption, all infliction of pain on animals (except for their own good) would be cruelty."

It is urgent, therefore, to study these matters with an open mind, bringing together those with differing views. The Government has recently established the Farm Animal Welfare Council (which will be important in shaping future legislation) for this purpose but it has already run into trouble with the refusal of the RSPCA council to allow its chief veterinary officer and executive director to accept invitations to serve on it.

Legislation to cover animal experiments is now in the unusual position of being under discussion in both Houses of Parliament. Lord Halsbury's Laboratory Animals Protection Bill received its second reading on October 25, and Mr Peter Fry's Protection of Animals (Scientific Purposes) Bill followed on November 16. The Council of Europe is debating the same subject and moving towards a European Convention. It is likely that the Government would prefer to see the

nature of the final European recommendations before settling for new regulations to have to replace the Cruelty to Animals Act, 1876, which has stood the test of time remarkably well.

Of the two Bills, the one in the Commons seems to be causing the greater worry, especially to the Royal Society and other societies, the Agricultural and Medical Research Councils, the veterinary profession and the chemical industry.

This is because, as it stands, the critics maintain that it is excessively restrictive; it could become more difficult, for example, to collect information on animal disease in the field or to carry out field trials of new drugs on farms. The provisions requiring experiments to be justified could also raise problems of definition and administration, and the scale of the oversight involved.

Many have gained the impression that this Bill has paid attention to the views of some

pet owners at the expense of the wider requirements of research and the protection of consumers. There are also fears among scientists that they will be conspicuously exposed to prosecution.

Some veterinarians believe that whatever evolves in the way of new legislation for both livestock production and animal experiments, all animals should have access to veterinary cover. They would like to see some provision for greater veterinary care and supervision.

While few would dispute that the attitude and training of the veterinarian is the best for this particular purpose, the veterinary profession is likely to meet opposition if it tries to expand its role beyond what others believe to be its qualifications. In the field of ethics, and on questions relating to the justification and execution of experiments, there is a greater body of experienced non-veterinary opinion.

Dr R. F. W. Goodwin
Veterinary Correspondent

Mr Speaker
and a
touch of silk

The talk at Westminster is that Mr George Thomas, Speaker of the House of Commons, will be hanging up his black silk stockings and silver-buckled shoes in July. And so will end 15 years of Methodist grip on the office of Speaker. (Incidentally, penitential *happos* happy birthday to Mr Thomas, the pride of Tonypantry, who is 71 today, and has been in the Commons since 1945 and Speaker for four years.)

The front runner in the succession stakes is Mr Bernard Weatherill, Conservative MP for Croydon North-east, and deputy Speaker. He has been a successful whip and would be a popular choice for the £19,650 a year umpire's job.

Mr Weatherill, who is 59, is a master tailor by profession. He has been known, when in playful mood, to rub a colleague's suit lapel between thumb and forefinger, to test the quality of the cloth. In his time he has been a mobilizer

of the British Poujadist vote, a doughy fighter on behalf of small businessmen.

Probably the Speaker's eighteenth-century court dress, patent leather shoes, stockings gripped by garters, knee breeches, long gown and full-bottomed wig, will feel strange on a man brought up with well-cut gentlemen's clothes.

But with his connections he should have no difficulty in obtaining the black silk stockings of the calling. Some years ago there was a crisis when black silk hose could not be had for love or money and, with parliamentary dignity at stake, the Speaker at the time had to make do with ladies' black nylon tights, size outside. I can only assume that Mr Speaker's shanks are once more graced with silk.

July will be a good time for Mr Thomas to go. It will be the end of a hard stint and everyone in the House will be feeling relieved and happy at the prospect of three months' holiday. And they will be in good mood to give Mr Thomas the affectionate send-off and handsome tributes he deserves. I know he will miss his role at the centre of the incantation



more of those Rhonda-rich tones as the man once billed in the old *Empire News* as George Thomas, champion of the underdog" says a lot more than "Order, order."

Why Ms is
cast out

A wider audience should know that *The Times* is making a historic sum on a matter of public interest. As now announced in a supplement to *The Times* style book, that forlorn fatherless and motherless little word Ms is cast into the lexicographical outer darkness.

Our style book is a small blue volume which guides us in our daily grappling with the language. I dare say some of my colleagues read a comforting page or two at bedtime. Indeed, it is such an interesting little book that I would not be surprised if it had some commercial potential.

The latest supplement to it tells that the right way to spell Rumania is Romania; that the term common law wife has no meaning in English law and should be avoided; that we should take care in the use of

the word girl (sloppy sexist use upper); that the word staggering may be applied only to drunkards; that we must not write China Trade because it reminds the Chinese of the days when we were busy selling them opium.

But to return to the first point. The style book says that Ms is not an acceptable substitute for Miss or Mrs (except in certain special circumstances).

This is a rallying point for common sense. There are several reasons why Ms should be allowed no air. It is artificial, ugly, silly, means nothing and is rotten English. It is a faded middle-class plaything; and far from disguising the marital status of women, as is claimed, it draws attention to it. It is a vanity.

But, worst of all, those who stamp their petulant feet and insist on its use have lost sight of the ball. There is an important battle to be fought for all women, not just a tiny elite. And while the Msers are straining at girths the struggle is elsewhere. Like chairperson, and the dotty battle for the dubious "right" to stand next to plump lawyers in El Vino,

Ms is one of the excesses of the revolution that should be junked. Such pursuit of the inconsequential will only end in tears.

That's torn it, I suppose. But in the end I can't be too hard on these *belles femmes*, even those who talk liberal. Underneath they're all lovable.

From Brussels, a charming *hikeout* extolling the virtues of bikes and mopeds: "The invention of the two wheeler has been offering him plenty of joyful hours which he still reminds today. Even in the age of Concorde the *hike* remains the little queen, the secret of eternal youth. We mention the moped with open frame, sometimes being called the automatic moped. Police corpses of many big towns have chosen it. Reparation costs are low and it is a silent driver. It's easier learning how to drive because it doesn't go zigzagging as motorizing school proprietors state. Dangerous? Less than a bike... the brakes are more efficient. A moped is as truehearted as a dog, as sober as a camel."

Trevor Fishlock



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COULD HE HAVE DONE LESS?

Just over three years ago President Carter took office pledged to cut defence spending by \$5,000m and to work for the elimination of all nuclear weapons from this earth. The previous Administration left him a defence budget for the fiscal year 1977-78 with an increase of \$12,200m. Simultaneously the CIA released estimates that the defence budget would have to be increased by about a third to match the Soviet Union in arms and men. On the other hand Dr Kissinger, the outgoing Secretary of State, had just been criticizing "alarmists" for what he called their meaningless insistence on supremacy. "I do not believe the Soviet Union is achieving military supremacy over the United States," he said.

Mr Carter could be forgiven for a certain amount of confusion. The whole Washington establishment was divided and remained divided for some time over the size and nature of the Soviet threat and the level at which the United States should feel itself adequately armed. Many still hoped that the Soviet Union would show signs of slowing down when it had reached reasonable equivalence, especially under the beneficent influence of agreements on arms control.

Yet Mr Carter did not wait long to modify his early hopes. A month after taking office he cut only \$2,700m from the defence budget, and later the same year he joined his NATO allies in pledging an annual increase of three per cent in real terms. Over the past two years he has met that commitment. The stiffening of the American defence effort after a period of

relative decline is, therefore, not just the result of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. It is getting slowly under way before that because of growing awareness of the steady growth of Soviet power over many years.

Nevertheless, additional impetus has now come from the new situation. The budget proposals announced yesterday mark a qualitative as well as a quantitative change. Not only will real outlays increase by an average of 3.8 per cent a year in 1980 and 1981 but there is evidence of a more serious examination of what the United States needs to do in the way of improving its capabilities. On the strategic level the new MX missile will, when it eventually becomes operational in 1986, meet the relatively recent Soviet ability to knock out most existing American land-based missiles in a single strike. In Europe the modernization of theatre nuclear weapons will go ahead, and the budget will also provide funds for storing additional equipment "to make possible a more rapid force build-up there".

Probably the most politically significant change is the new urgency being given to the development of rapid deployment forces which will restore the American ability to send forces quickly to any part of the globe. These plans, too, were under way before the invasion of Afghanistan but they now seem likely to receive higher priority and more political support. They symbolize a turning point in the United States view of its role in the world. When President Johnson tried to set up a similar force in 1967 he was criticized by Senator Richard Russell, a "hawk" if

ever there was one, on the grounds that it would create an impression "that the United States has assumed the function of policing the world and that it can be thought to be at least considering intervention in any kind of strife or commotion occurring in any of the nations of the world". As the Vietnam war drew to its disastrous end, the feeling grew that the United States should refrain from practically all military involvement abroad except in Europe. In 1971 a public opinion poll found only eleven per cent in favour of increasing the defence budget. Mr Carter responded to this mood in his election campaign, and even promised to withdraw American troops from South Korea.

Last October a poll found sixty per cent in favour of higher defence spending, and Congress seems unlikely to raise a murmur against the new budget, including the rapid deployment force. So profound is the change of mood. It is not just that the Americans have forgotten Vietnam. The most obvious reason for the change is the clearer knowledge that for the past decade the Soviet Union has been increasing its real spending on defence by 4.5 per cent a year and allotting some 11-13 per cent of its gnp to the same purpose, even though its economic growth is slowing and its people suffering increasing shortages. Put that together with the build-up of tanks and new rockets in the European theatre, the massive submarine programme, the extent of Soviet military aid to third world countries, the use of Cuban troops in Africa, and now the massive invasion of Afghanistan, and Mr Carter's response seems not excessive but merely adequate.

associate of the Ayatollah Khomeini, he will be given a fairly free hand, and that the Ayatollah will only intervene if he sees something with which he disagrees strongly or if he considers things are going badly wrong. And of course if the Ayatollah, old as he is, was to weaken his grip, Mr Bani-Sadr's position would be all the stronger.

For the West, it will be extremely important to show tact and understanding. There is little doubt that many of the things Mr Bani-Sadr, a radical economist, might like to do—restriction of oil output, nationalization of foreign-owned companies, the rallying of opinion in Islamic countries against western economic influence—are not to its interest nor perhaps to those of Iran. Mr Bani-Sadr has long been convinced that many of Iran's difficulties are the result of too much involvement with western interests, and in this he reflects many of the ideas of Mossadegh. But at the same time he is firmly anti-communist and shows every sign of being fully aware of the threat to Iran from the Soviet Union. The way to respond, therefore, is not by sanctions, but by working to achieve a modus vivendi. The United States, which has every right to anger over the hostages, has to decide whether Iran or Russia is the threat. The West needs a stable and independent Iran, and Mr Bani-Sadr's election could be the first step.

Christians and cults.

From Mr Patrick Lake

Sir, As a very satisfied customer of Scientology, I would like to take issue with a few of the points raised by K. P. Frampton (January 17).

Firstly, I do not consider myself to be a member of a cult. I hold the same religious beliefs as I have always held and no attempt has been made by Scientology to change them.

Scientology is not about religion; it is about the mind. Through Dianetic counselling, the mind is relieved of its aberrations and as a result, the soul becomes freer of the afflictions of the body. Scientology is the nearest that the industry comes to what is accepted as religion.

It is in the area of Dianetic counselling that Scientology has most to offer to the public. This is a science in that progress through it can be measured (by use of an E-Meter) and the end result is a totally predictable state of mind. Scientology is, therefore, understandable and they must surely welcome the efforts of the Deo Gloria Trust who help to confuse an already confused public.

Indeed, it was a surprise to me that an article was written by your Religious Affairs Correspondent (December 31). Dianetic counselling will cure many of the psychosomatic ills that beset us today, from drug addiction and alcoholism to the extent that and normal social drinking) and it would seem therefore, more logical if articles were written by your Medical or Science Correspondents.

Mr Frampton appears to lay great store by second-hand information. He is backing the CIA and FBI as being right. There is no justification to assume this; indeed, your correspondent says that had a great deal of substance. Scientology, without any direct involvement with the CIA and FBI, has been successful in curing many of the psychosomatic ills that beset us today, from drug addiction and alcoholism to the extent that and normal social drinking) and it would seem therefore, more logical if articles were written by your Medical or Science Correspondents.

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Right of silence in Scotland

From the President of the Glasgow Bar Association

Sir, Your edition of Wednesday January 16 contains a report on the second reading in the House of Lords of the new Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill.

The summary of the report appears to indicate that the Bill arises out of the recommendations of the Committee on Criminal Procedure which sat in Scotland for some years. In fact, the Bill contains recommendations from no less than five select committees, namely the Thomson Committee, the Enslie Committee, the Dunpark Committee, the McElhiney Working Party and the Bryden Committee.

The incorporation of recommendations from so many committees in one Bill (arguably the most important piece of legislation on matters criminal in Scotland this century) causes justifiable concern. That concern, despite the reported remarks of Lord Mansfield, is not confined to the Bill but extends to the manner in which it is being handled.

It is much more misguided to suggest that the right of silence is preserved in the Bill. A person accused of a crime has at the most a limited right of silence. The Bill however specifically provides that a person arrested subsequent to detention and brought before a court may, at the instance of the procurator fiscal, undergo judicial examination, at which his solicitor may be present but at which—in present format—the solicitor has no right of audience. Questions may be asked by the court, but significantly the right to remain silent in the face of such questions may be commented on at a future date by both a procurator fiscal and/or the court. Thus the right of silence can no longer be exercised at what is arguably the most important point, namely the appearance of an accused person in court to answer a specific charge.

With this raising of the right of silence, there has arrived—surely—a major step towards the undermining of the presumption of innocence, for if the accused must answer then he must be presumed to have information relevant and pertinent to the case.

Detention itself, it is claimed, follows recommendations by the Thomson Committee. That is a half truth. Thomson suggested a period within which a person, not yet charged, could be detained within a police station for a period not exceeding six hours. Thomson specifically added the rider that questions and answers by such detainees during such detention should be tape recorded and, indeed, went so far as to suggest that the kind of tape recordings seen by the committee were practicable, economic, and necessary.

Many of the underlying assumptions in the Bill—for example, ideas of the need for a police station—require much further discussion than, with the best will in the world, is capable within a busy parliamentary term. Yours faithfully, DESMOND QUINN, President, Glasgow Bar Association, 216 Bath Street, Glasgow, January 22.

Race in the 1981 Census

From Professor John Rex

Sir, My colleagues in the social sciences, as well as those who are concerned to promote good race relations, seem in the majority to have reached the conclusion that they want an ethnic question of some kind in the 1981 census.

One particularly close to this problem, explain briefly my own reluctance to give them my support.

First, I am least of all convinced of the suggestion by some members of the executive of the Social Research Association that we should have a colour question. I am amazed that no one seems to have realized that Indians and Pakistanis either could not or would not answer such a question. If more

over, they and their answers would merely confuse the data. There is already a marked difference between the characteristics of Asians and West Indian descended people and this difference is only likely to increase. Conclusions about blacks or non-whites therefore would be gravely misleading.

If, however, we have an ethnic question, who will benefit from the data collected? I do not read the history of the census and its extensions the way that Mrs Cheetham does. The benefit which immigrants have had from statistics has been confined largely to help on technical matters like language instruction.

Otherwise, the presence of immigrants has been used as an index of pathology, justifying increased payments to particular local authorities, who have all too often used such increased payments for the benefit of their own citizens.

On the other hand the statistics have been extensively used in propaganda campaigns against black immigrants. Such campaigns are only likely to increase the number of "Asians" and "West Indians" appear to have doubled as we count in their British children.

If we are to have an ethnic question, I would make two points. One is that the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys should be forced to have discussions with representative minority leaders outside Harrogate and with those with some experience of race relations research. The other is that when the data is collected, members of the Commission for Racial Equality and related bodies should be militant in their campaigns against minority disadvantage rather than holding back as they have done, especially in the sphere of housing, from holding investigations for fear that the 1976 Act will be revoked.

Yours faithfully, JOHN REX, Director, Research Unit on Ethnic Relations, The University of Aston in Birmingham, St Peter's College, College Road, Salford, M6 6PU, Birmingham.

Cuts in personal social services

From The Bishop of Coventry

Sir, Mr Stacey's *Times*, January 23 makes us painfully aware of the dilemma facing local councils as they receive advice from the Government both to cut expenditure and to protect services for the most vulnerable. The Government has made it clear on several occasions that services to protect those who cannot look after themselves are to be spared the worst of the consequences of necessary reductions in public expenditure.

At the same time the Treasury forecasts of public expenditure, published towards the end of last year in any other area of public expenditure, are being cut. It does begin to look as though the advice from the Government is inconsistent and self-contradictory.

Faced with the need for cutting public expenditure it is suggested that one answer is for people to stop relying on the state and take more responsibility for themselves and their families. I am all for the acceptance of responsibility but I do not think the majority of people are in need of this advice. Proportionately fewer handicapped and old people are now living in institutions than was the case 30 years ago.

Many people are now suffering about the elderly, relatives and neighbours. I understand that less than 20 in every thousand people over 65 live in homes for the elderly. We face mounting problems in caring for a tolerable quality of life to the elderly and advances in health care give us all a greater expectancy of life. Of what value is that increased expectancy of life if it condemns us to spend the last years of our life in misery and sorrow?

Because of changes in our society people are encouraged to be more mobile and to be prepared to move to distant parts of the country for good economic reasons. It is this kind of consideration which tends to disrupt extended family ties and makes caring for the elderly difficult. Most families with mentally or physically handicapped children want to avoid their permanent hospitalization and in some cases this is possible if the most basic services are made available to them. I know many parents in my diocese who make great sacrifices to keep their handicapped children within the family.

The suggestion, therefore, that people should be more self-reliant is not the kind of help that is most needed in my diocese where they are handicapped children within the family. The suggestion, therefore, that people should be more self-reliant is not the kind of help that is most needed in my diocese where they are handicapped children within the family.

If we take satisfaction in seeing a reduction in publicly financed services of the kind for which Mr Stacey and his colleagues provide on our behalf it can only mean we are moving to a more selfish and

uncaring society: a tendency which I would deplore. It is in a situation of economic stringency that we are really tested concerning our priorities in compassion.

Yours faithfully, JOHN COVENTRY, The Bishop's House, Davenport Road, Coventry.

From Mr R. Hurst

Sir, The proposals contained in the Government's Social Security Bill, to defer the payment of Supplementary Benefit to school and college leavers under the age of 19 who are leaving for employment, has very serious social and economic consequences.

So far as young people are concerned and especially those school leavers with few examination qualifications, it is simply not true, as the Secretary of State for Social Services told the House of Commons on December 20, that "in many parts of the country there are jobs available". To also imply, as the Minister did to the House, that young people should be "mobile" and take the jobs that are on offer reflects a total ignorance of the special difficulties facing the least qualified youngster, many of whom come from low earning households and for whom this particular proposal will hit hardest.

The Minister's attitude is also worrying in that it fails to appreciate the social problems associated with young people aged 16 and 17 leaving home at that age to seek employment, say, in London and the South East which at present has 59 per cent of total notified vacancies for young people (with 15 per cent of total youth unemployment), compared with 13 per cent of total vacancies in the combined North West, North, Wales and Scotland regions, which have 48 per cent of youth unemployment.

In no part of the country at present is it easy for the least qualified and handicapped young person to obtain employment—hence the reason why there are now over 100,000 young people, not shown in unemployment statistics, who are engaged in the Youth Opportunities Programme.

There is too much obsession with "work shyness" and alleged abuse of the supplementary benefit system by young people. There needs to be a more objective recognition of the very real social and economic problems facing school leavers in the hardest hit regions.

The Government should reexamine this particular proposal in the Bill. It should also examine Home Office evidence linking juvenile crime with unemployment. What is going to be the position when we have many thousands of independently minded school leavers (young adults) genuinely seeking work but who, through no fault of their own, will be facing unemployment without direct financial support?

Yours faithfully, R. HURST, 39 Corporation Road, Redcar, Cleveland.

Speculation about spies

From Mr Robert Cecil

Sir, The controversy about Philby & Co pursues its unsatisfactory course; the phase of speculation has now been followed by the phase of exculpation. In the process the names of former public servants are freely bandied about, causing pain without doing much to elucidate what happened.

The origin of all this speculation lies in the refusal of successive governments to issue an authoritative and comprehensive statement. Such a statement must contain the names of those living and dead, against whom there is incontrovertible evidence of disloyalty, including those (if any) to whom immunity has been granted, as it has been to Blunt. This statement could then be taken as a declaration of the innocence of all not named.

Unless this is done, speculation—profitable to some; odious to others—will continue. This is inevitable

because: (1) uncertainty exists whether immunity has been granted to others, in addition to Blunt; (2) the latter's statements and the course of events make it impossible to know whether he was informed immediately after the decision to interrogate Maclean had been taken at the highest level in the Foreign Office. This decision could only have been communicated to Blunt, who no longer has any official capacity, by some very senior official in the FO, MIS or M16. It does not follow that this informant was a traitor; but, if he was not, he was at the least guilty of a deplorable indiscretion.

Surely now, nearly two years after these events occurred, there can be no valid excuse on security grounds for the persistent refusal to issue a full statement and so put an end to the controversy? I am, Sir, yours etc, ROBERT CECIL, Hambleton, Hampshire, January 24.

Changes at the V & A

From the Director of the Victoria and Albert Museum

Sir, I feel that Mr Lumley's letter (January 26) concerning the Victoria and Albert Museum's Primary Galleries is misinformed. They are not as static as he suggests, but an arrangement which was inaugurated 30 years ago by my predecessor Sir Leigh Ashton in the aftermath of the Second World War. At the time they were a brilliant and successful experiment. Since then there has been ad hoc rearrangement and they have become increasingly shabby.

The most serious objection to them, however, is that they come to an end in 1900. The V & A is about this century as much as any other. Magnificent items from the great nineteenth-century exhibitions and of art movements have been returned to Britain. Green Museum and the Frank Lloyd Wright room and the

Strand Palace Foyer, which are now in store will be passing on display. Our duty lies not only to the British public and to the visitor from abroad a panorama of our greatest achievements in the decorative arts from Tudor times to the present day. Nor is the technique of display greatly altered but also what the public expects from such an exhibition.

Following in the wake of the Minister's call for private sponsorship of the arts, we look to raising a large sum to carry through this development over a period of several years. At no time during the project will our greatest treasures be withdrawn from view. The V & A cannot remain static and the changes are being made in response to the pressing demands of students, designers, the art trade and the general museum visitor.

Yours faithfully, ROY STOKES, Director, Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington, SW7.

Care of mental patients

From Miss Mary Appleby

Sir, I find it impossible to accept the implication in Mr van Straubenzee's letter (January 11) that groups interested in the welfare of patients in mental hospitals make irresponsible allegations of ill-treatment against the staff of such hospitals in order to raise funds and pay their own salaries.

It is reassuring that the inquiry at Church House Hospital, and the substance in summary of ill-treatment there, what about the Farleigh inquiry, the Whittingham inquiry and the inquiry at St Augustine's Hospital, to name but a few?

Certainly while there exists a situation in which too few staff are being asked to care for too many patients, the role of interest groups is to draw attention to these conditions and to seek improvements. But their prime responsibility is to see that the patient comes to no harm. Harm, in this day and age, is not simply

that there may be physical coercion, but that over-pressed staff may be tempted to use the great technical advances open to psychiatry to manage patients rather than to treat them.

If there were no interest groups to keep a watchful eye on developments such as these, I for one should feel that patients were very much more at risk than is at present the case. Equally, when money is short, I doubt whether the psychiatric services would get as much of the financial cake in the National Health Service as they do, were it not for the continual badgering of the interest groups.

To suggest that the work of these bodies is motivated by self-interest does them a grave injustice: an injustice not only to the staff, but to the hundreds of volunteers, professional and lay, who give their services to the cause of helping the mentally distressed.

Yours faithfully, MARY APPLEBEY, 18 Woodfall Street, Chelsea, SW3.

A boycott of the Olympic Games

From Mr A. G. K. Brown

Sir, After competing in the Olympic Games of 1936 I wrote an article in an undergraduate magazine which made me very unpopular in some quarters. My conviction was that the Games had been used to glorify the ideals and achievements of a regime of which I disapproved, and that they were part of the process that persuaded so many decent German people that Hitler was a great and good man, (incidentally, he behaved very well during the course of the Games, and in my view there is no foundation for the stories that he was popular. If he showed any disappointment in the result of the 100 metres it was not because Jesse Owens won, which would scarcely have surprised him, but because the German champion Borchmeyer failed to win a medal.)

It was this atmosphere of protest and protest that made me make the Berlin Games unhappy to compete in, and I am surprised that so many of the present Olympic "possibles" seem to look forward to competing in similar circumstances in Moscow. Surely it will be difficult for any athlete who is sensible of these things to perform happily and at his best.

The IOC must be blamed for bringing about a situation in which athletes will once again be used for propaganda purposes. I support the Marquis of Exeter in maintaining that politics should be kept out of the Games, but I fail to understand how he can support their being staged in a country whose prevailing philosophy says that everything is political.

Yours faithfully, A. G. K. BROWN, The Village, Clifton upon Teme, Worcester, January 25.

From Professor Ian Finlay

Sir, May I through your columns inquire if it is not the case that fostering of higher standards in sport is heavily subsidized by the taxpayer? If it is, the Olympic athletes to whom medals are given by the Olympic officials, and by some prominent sportsmen, is monumental humbug.

Also, they appear to be conveniently blinkered against the full implications of the Olympic ceremony, which requires the prerequisite of peace, as many of the Chinese among them, have pointed out.

The basic truth is that sport has long ceased to be sport and has become another vested interest in a world indifferent to ethics. If sport is to count for anything again, let us think less in terms of Olympic medals than of the pat on the back on the village green.

Yours faithfully, IAN FINLAY, Currie Riggs, 3 Newmill Road, Balerno, Edinburgh, January 23.

Forming a centre party

From Mr R. Symm-Crampton

Sir, May I congratulate you on your leader of January 17, and its general fairness.

At the moment, as I feel sure must be the case of so many of the electorate, I am disenfranchised. As a former Tory of the Middle Way, I deplore the laissez faire economics of the present Government and, particularly, its lack of compassion for the old, the sick and unemployed. This is shown by the present Administration's intention to end the inflation-proofing of the social benefits given to those I have mentioned—with the possibility of ending the "proofing" for public service pensioners. The former sections of society are easily attacked, as they lack the power and influence of the rich and the unions to fight back. Add to all this the proposed cruel rises in gas and electricity which will hit hard those people I have mentioned.

I cannot vote Labour while the extreme Leftists within hold such power. As to the Liberals, I am afraid some of their Members of Parliament are rather more like third class railwaymen than as the second class members of the Liberal Party. I deplore the laissez faire economics of the present Government and, particularly, its lack of compassion for the old, the sick and unemployed. This is shown by the present Administration's intention to end the inflation-proofing of the social benefits given to those I have mentioned—with the possibility of ending the "proofing" for public service pensioners. The former sections of society are easily attacked, as they lack the power and influence of the rich and the unions to fight back. Add to all this the proposed cruel rises in gas and electricity which will hit hard those people I have mentioned.

Yours faithfully, R. SYMM-CRAMPTON, Flat 4, 7 Alexandra Villas, Brighton, Sussex, January 18.

Morning television

From Mrs M. Brook

Sir, Weekday mornings in a family, which involve getting children up and off to school, providing dinner money, finding missing books, ensuring that lights are switched off, that the cat is fed and out, that doors are locked, that the car will start and so on, are probably the most stressful of the day. How many adults and how many children are unproductive during the first one or two working hours because of cross words and tension generated before leaving the house?

And now it is proposed to introduce another stress-inducing factor: a factor that is far less capable of being ignored than the radio. The advertiser may benefit but I doubt, in real terms, whether the British family will.

Unlike America we have already radio programmes that offer just the menu that is suggested for morning television. For whose benefit is this development?

Yours faithfully, MURIEL BROOK, Saxonholme, Oreston Lane, Effingham, Surrey, January 25.

HOME NEWS

Washington portrait sold to America is valued at £1.9m

By Geraldine Norman

A portrait of George Washington which has been in the Mount Stuart family since the eighteenth century has been sold to the United States by Lord Bute.

Richard Feigen, the New York dealer who has been the agent for the sale, told me yesterday that his valuation of the picture was about \$4 million (£1.9 million). Only one painting has ever fetched more than that at auction, a Velasquez portrait sold at Christie's for £2,310,000.

The portrait, by the artist-diplomat, John Trumbull, is thought to have been painted in London when he was sent as secretary to the Jay Treaty Commission in the 1790s, which finally settled the way of American independence. He was given the job by Washington, whom he knew well and often painted.

Two large versions of this portrait are known and the existence of a small version in London is recorded in the 1790s. It was delivered to a "Mr West" for engraving in 1797, but has been lost sight of. If it has not been destroyed it could still be in England.

The first version was painted by Trumbull in Philadelphia in 1792 and is now at Yale. It has been used for several series of United States stamps.

The painting arrived at the Feigen Gallery on Sunday and

its destination is not yet decided. Negotiations have been taking place over its possible donation to the White House, but another major institution is interested.

Lord Bute stipulated, according to Feigen, that he would sell only if assured that the painting went to a major national institution in the United States.

That was relatively difficult to arrange in one stage when the painting itself was at Mount Stuart on the Isle of Rothesay, off the Scottish coast. So the deal has been arranged in two stages.

A Trumbull Trust was set up to look after its purchase and export from Britain to America; the next stage is to negotiate its acquisition by a suitable institution.

In characteristically American style, the whole thing hangs on tax deductions. The painting has to be sold to suitable donors, who will then make a gift of it and set the value of their donation against tax.

Feigen admits that Lord Bute has not been paid \$4m. "I suggested that valuation level," he said, "taking the donors into account."

It might be bought by donors with suitable tax difficulties, lent to the White House for two years, then given at a current market valuation, which could be substantially higher than the purchase price.

Ulster talks give way to 'parallel' conference

From Christopher Thomas

The Northern Ireland constitutional conference broke for a five-day respite yesterday on an angry note. With no apparent prospect of breaking the impasse on power-sharing.

As the Democratic Unionists and the Alliance Party filed out of Parliament Buildings on Stormont Hill, Roman Catholic political leaders made their way to Stormont Castle a few hundred yards away. There, the Social Democratic and Labour Party delegates began the "parallel" conference on security, the EGC.

The economy under the chairmanship of Mr Humphrey Atkins, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

The Democratic Unionists flatly refused to attend the second conference. The Alliance Party delegates decided to await authorization from the party executive next week.

The conference therefore hinged on the SDLP, which is taking the chance of forcing home every aspect of its claim for an Irish dimension to be included in the political remedy to be promulgated by the Government later in the year.

All subjects on the agenda are capable of being broadened into an all-Irish context, which has persuaded the SDLP not to attempt to press the Irish dimension as the primary plank.

The only item discussed yesterday was security, which the SDLP presented under four headings: the political context; the current situation; the policy; the legal system, with reference to emergency legislation and prisons, with special reference to the H-Blocks.

Mr John Hume, SDLP leader, said that Mr Atkins had given an assurance that the result of both conferences would be reported simultaneously to the Cabinet.

The main conference yesterday continued to study the Alliance Party's formula for a new administration based on a committee system. It was a friendly, if tense, session.

Outside the atmosphere continued to worsen. The Rev Ian Paisley, Democratic Unionist leader, condemned the "parallel" talks, adding: "We are not going to any sidishow linked to the idea of a united Ireland."

And his robust rejection of power-sharing at executive level brought a sharp report from Senator Mallon, SDLP deputy leader: "If Mr Paisley is saying majority rule is the only way he will look at the problem, I can see little hope for this conference."

The Official Unionists meanwhile are patiently waiting for the administration to collapse or become meaningless in order to justify their boycott.



Signor Francesco Cossiga, the Italian Prime Minister, helps Mrs Thatcher when she had difficulty with the translation system earphones at their press conference in London yesterday.

Soldier in protest clash admonished

From Our Correspondent

A soldier who was seen on television news broadcasts shouting and gesticulating at the demonstrators on Sunday, in Birmingham was admonished by his commanding officer yesterday after being found guilty of bringing the Army into disrepute.

Fusilier Stuart Smith-Blair was seen climbing a lamp post, shouting and gesticulating at the demonstrators on Sunday. His sister, Linda, aged 21, was badly injured in Birmingham public house bombings by the Provisional IRA in 1974 in which 21 people died.

Fusilier Smith-Blair was brought back from leave to appear before his commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Kerry Woodrow, at Basingstoke Barracks, Cambridge.

Lieutenant-Colonel Woodrow said afterwards: "This man was above average in every subject. He admits he was silly."

Eire proposes to give police more powers

From Our Correspondent

Mr Gerry Collins, the Irish Minister for Justice, announced in Dublin yesterday that he is preparing tough new legislation to strengthen the hand of the Republic's police.

Although he refused to be specific about the measures it is thought likely that the new legislation will drastically change the rules of evidence in court, including the right of a suspect to remain silent and the availability of bail.

He intends to present his proposals to the Dail during the next session.

Mr Collins told a press conference that changes in the criminal justice system were necessary to "remove some of the advantages" enjoyed by criminals.

The Garda Commissioner, he said, had made certain recommendations. "These of course are confidential," Mr Collins

said, "but you can deduce that they will deal with problems relating to the rules of evidence and the questioning of suspects."

He agreed that some of the measures could attract the opposition of groups concerned with civil liberties who were intent on obstructing the police.

He said he had consulted with the Attorney General and he would be pressing ahead as fast as possible with the new legislation, but it was up to the government to decide what it would contain.

The commissioner's annual report on crime showed that 62,000 crimes were committed during 1978—a reduction of 1.5 per cent on the 1977 figure. The report also showed that the Garda detection rate had increased by almost 2 per cent.

The trend of a fall in crime had continued but that did not do away with the need for new measures.

Only a week left to save 'ship shops'

By John Young

Hopes of preserving parts of the historic "ship shops" in Portsmouth naval dockyard rest on an agreement being reached within the next week between the Government's Property Services Agency, Mr John Warren of the Southern Industrial History Museum, West Sussex, and Bovis, the demolition contractors.

The ship shops, believed to be the world's oldest arched iron buildings, are due to be replaced by new admiralty buildings. Mr Warren is confident that he can raise the \$56,000 that Bovis says would be the extra cost of dismantling the parts of the structure that he wants for the museum.

The PSA has no objection to an arrangement between Mr Warren and Bovis, if it does not delay completion of the work.

Tory women call for rise in child benefits

By Our Social Services Correspondent

The Conservative Women's National Advisory Committee is urging the Chancellor of the Exchequer to raise child benefits in the Budget to stop the erosion of family income.

A working party formed by the committee points out in a statement today that the last Budget eroded the position of families with children compared with others by failing to increase child benefits after the rise last April.

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, announced last week that child benefits would not rise in April, when tax rates are expected to be altered. He said it made more sense to raise child benefits in November, when social security benefits are increased.

The Conservative women's committee says today that child benefits should be treated as a personal tax allowance, a view taken by both Mr Jenkin and Sir Geoffrey Howe, CC, Chancellor of the Exchequer, when they were opposition spokesmen.

If they were so treated, the women's committee says child benefits could be increased proportionately at the same time as tax allowances for adults. That should be achieved by an increase in child benefits in 1980.

Terrorism Act man still held

A man detained at Sumburgh airport, Shetland, on Tuesday under the Prevention of Terrorism Act was still in custody yesterday, the police said. The man has not been named and no details have been given.

He was said to have arrived at Sumburgh by helicopter from a North Sea oil rig. The police said he was taken to the main Shetland police station at Lerwick.



Detail from Trumbull's painting of George Washington.

Nurses 'should not prescribe pill'

By Staff Reporter

The British Medical Association last night criticised a recommendation by the Royal College of Nursing that some nurses should be able to prescribe oral contraceptives.

A report published yesterday by the working party of the college's Family Planning Forum, said that trained family planning nurses should be allowed to prescribe oral contraceptives to women with no medical problems, without reference to doctors.

Family planning nurses were already experienced in providing family planning help and in some clinics and surgeries proposed the method of contraception, the report said.

Although it emphasised that the prescription of oral contraceptives should not be undertaken by nurses unless they were sure that a safe and proper service to the public could be provided, it suggested that there was no necessity for women to be examined by a doctor before it was decided that it was safe to give them the pill.

Nurses could be trained to undertake the initial examination for prescribing oral contraceptives and a seven-point procedure should be followed before any prescription was made.

That procedure included taking a medical history, measuring blood pressure and having some knowledge of pharmacology, the report said.

The British Medical Association said that it was very unhappy about both the diagnostic and legal aspects of the report's recommendations.

"The pill has side-effects and someone who is medically qualified must take responsibility for the initial diagnosis as to whether a woman should be on it. Only a doctor has specialised training in diagnosis."

"We are talking about prescribing drugs. It is all very well having a checklist, but what happens if a nurse prescribes the pill and it interacts with something that has been prescribed by a doctor? Who is legally liable?" the association asked.

Man who killed sister over 30p gets life term

From Our Correspondent

Clifford John Clarke, aged 22 of Sumpson Road, Rainhill, Merseyside, who admitted having killed his sister Deborah, aged 14, with a hammer because she pestered him for 30p, was found not guilty at Liverpool Crown Court yesterday of her murder but guilty of manslaughter on the ground of diminished responsibility.

Mr Justice Kilner Brown, sentencing him to life imprisonment, said it was in Mr Clarke's interest as well as that of the public that his sentence should be indeterminate rather than a fixed term that no one could alter.

"Although it sounds a dreadful sentence, it never means what it says," the judge added. "In the end your sentence will be determined by the Home Secretary on the advice of medical experts."

Mother tells of fight to save son buried by snowball

From Our Correspondent

A mother described at an inquest at Wellington, Salop, yesterday how she fought "for what seemed like an age" in a vain attempt to revive her son, aged seven, after he had been buried under a snowball.

Mrs Olive Bowers said she used the kiss of life and heart massage to try to save her son, Anthony, who had been brought to her on a sledge by playmates.

Mr Michael Gwynne, the coroner, was told how the boy's friends had kicked the 3 cwt snowball apart after it had rolled on top of him as they played in a field near their homes at Lawley Bank, Telford.

Stephen Bowers, aged 10, the dead boy's brother, of Station Road, Lawley Bank, said he was playing with Tony, and a friend, Ian Brice, aged 10, rolling

snowballs down a sloping field. They rolled one which became about 5ft high, and became stuck in a rut. Anthony moved in front to free it and the snowball rolled on to him, completely burying him.

Stephen Bowers added: "It was too heavy for Ian and me to roll off him, so we kicked it apart. I heard Tony moan, and put him on a sledge."

Mrs Bowers said: "I realised something was wrong. I have we eventually got him out, and had medical training. I tried mouth to mouth revival, and heart massage for what seemed like an age, and neighbours also helped me."

Recording a verdict of misadventure Mr Gwynne said it was an indescribable tragedy. No blame attached to anyone.

Medical evidence was given that the boy died from asphyxia.

Local authority chiefs attack Bill

By Christopher Warman

Local Government Correspondent

There is no case for the proposed local government legislation, local government chief executives conclude in a report on the Government's recently published Local Government, Planning and Land (No 2) Bill.

The Society of Local Authority Chief Executives in collaboration with the Institute of Local Government Studies, in a strongly critical appraisal that the proposals would lead to greater central control in spite of the Government's assertions that it wished to give councils greater freedom of control.

The one point that can be made with certainty is that on the key issues in the Bill, whenever a choice has had to be made, the Government has

chosen control and influence by central government, over individual local authorities, rather than reliance on local accountability within a national framework. That inevitably replaces local political control by new bureaucratic procedures," the report says.

Referring to proposals which would give closer central control over local authority capital spending and introduce a new block grant system, the report claims that a Bill which states its intention to relax controls over local government "in practice does exactly the reverse. Minor relaxations are confounded by major proposals for new controls."

There was nothing in the pattern of council spending to justify a move by the Government from a concern for the total of local government expenditure to a concern for

the position in particular authorities.

The implications of the proposals mean that the Secretary of State for the Environment would have direct power over each council.

The introduction of a standard expenditure and standard rate package implied that individual spending and rate levels would be known by everyone, and if they were identified the Secretary of State would be answerable on individual cases.

"By moving from general statements about local government expenditure to particular statements about particular local authorities, ministers will inevitably have to abandon their general management about cutbacks and the possibility of achieving cutback by natural wastage alone."

"They will have to face the consequences"

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HOME NEWS

Most 11-year-olds cannot apply their basic mathematics in more complex settings

By Diana Geddes

Education Correspondent

Most 11-year-olds can do mathematics involving the more fundamental concepts and skills, and simple applications of them, according to a report published yesterday. But there is a sharp decline in performance when they try to apply that basic knowledge in more complex settings or unfamiliar contexts.

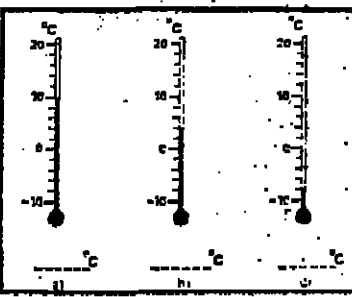
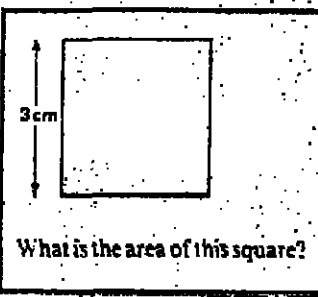
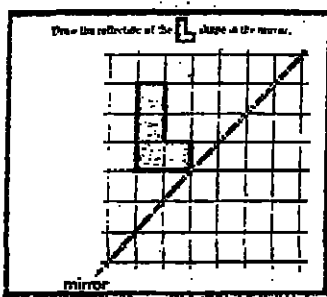
That is the conclusion of the first national survey of the performance in mathematics of 11-year-olds in England and Wales carried out by the Assessment of Performance Unit of the Department of Education and Science.

Written and practical tests were given to more than 15,000 children in about 1,000 mainstream primary and independent schools during May, 1978. More tests were carried out among different children and schools last May; the results of which are not yet available. The testing will be repeated each year.

Similar surveys have been made by the unit of the performance in mathematics of 15-year-olds and the language development of children aged 11 and 15. Assessments in science for pupils aged 11, 13 and 15 are due to begin this year. Modern languages will follow. All surveys will be done on an annual basis.

The aim of the first survey of 11-year-olds' mathematics is not to pronounce on whether standards in schools are lower or higher than they should be, but simply to present a picture of what children are doing, the report says. It leaves it to others to make value judgments.

It points out that the breadth of subject matter covered by the tests made it unlikely that any individual school would have taught all the material to



Three examples from the tests: Only 14 per cent of pupils were able to draw the L-shape reflection correctly; 37 per cent knew the area of the square; and the three thermometers (right) were read correctly by 83, 34, and 21 per cent respectively.

all its pupils. The percentage of pupils reported as having got an item right is based on the number who took the test and not on the number who had been taught the mathematics included in that item.

The following are sample test questions, with the proportion of children providing the correct answer in parentheses.

Put these decimals in order of size, smallest first: 0.7; 0.23; 0.1 (21%).

What number is 10 times 0.5? (34%).

The number which is one less than 2010 is...? (64%).

24x25 = ? (38%).

150 people are coming to see a school play; the chairs are arranged in rows of 15; how many rows will be needed? (66%).

In a traffic count, there are on average 25 cars to every 3 buses; 12 buses go by in 1 hour; about how many cars would pass in one hour? (38%).

Sometimes language was an added obstacle. Only 25 per cent got this question right: A batting average in cricket is found by dividing the number of runs scored by number of

times out. Fill in the following table:

Name	No. of runs	No. of times out	Average
Boycott	500	10	50

Pupils' grasp of the concept of a decimal place value was shown by several items to be tenuous, the report says. Fractions could be added by 60-70 per cent if their denominators were the same, but by fewer than 30 per cent if they were not.

Different contexts influenced performance. A division of two numbers, 84÷4, was answered correctly by 70 per cent of pupils, but the same calculation written more unusually in fraction form, 84/4, was answered correctly by only 40 per cent.

While pupils generally understood the basic idea of symbols, graphs and diagrams, many found translating and manipulating symbols too abstract for them. They perceived only what was immediately evident.

The mean scores of pupils in different types of schools were compared. It was found, contrary to expectations, that the schools with the best pupil-teacher ratio (which normally means smaller classes) obtained lower scores than those with the least favourable staffing ratio.

Additional analyses showed that even after allowing for the fact that schools with the most favourable pupil-teacher ratio tended to include a high proportion of poor children, pupils in those schools still tended to achieve lower mean scores. Further detailed study of the data is required, the report suggests.

Pupils in the counties tended to do better than those in the cities, but metropolitan areas had a higher proportion of poor children. Pupils living in affluent catchment areas in metropolitan authorities did not have significantly lower scores than their peers in county schools.

A comparison of the results achieved by girls and boys, showed that the girls tended to score higher in computation (whole numbers and decimals), while the boys did better in tests involving length, area, volume, applications of number, and rate and ratio. But differences between the sexes were only slight.

Mathematics Development. Primary survey report No. 1. Assessment of Performance Unit. (Department of Education and Science, Welsh Office, Stationery Office, £5.)

Mr Corrie says Bill 'inadequate'

By Annabel Ferriman

The Abortion (Amendment) Bill does not go far enough in amending the law on abortion, but it goes as far as is possible at the present time, Mr John Corrie, Conservative MP for Arris, North and Butte, told a rally in the Methodist Central Hall, Westminster, yesterday.

Mr Corrie, whose Bill reaches its report stage on February 3, said that the enthusiastic rally organized by the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children made up for the bitter moments of the past few months when his Bill had been "sitting through the committee

"I have been kicked, spat upon and insulted. My family have been telephoned during the night to make sure that they could not get a full night's sleep because I took this Bill on," he said.

He was delighted to see so many young people in the audience because he had been told that youth was against the Bill. But he was now convinced that young people did not want abortion on demand.

If the current law was made more liberal, it would be the end of society as we knew it, he said. His Bill was possibly the last chance for a decade to change the law and, although it did not go far enough, it was as much as he could get through Parliament at present.

Mr Cyril Smith, Liberal MP for Rochdale, supporting Mr Corrie's Bill, said that it was



Doctors and nurses on a float during a counter-demonstration against the Corrie Bill.

ridiculous that although a majority of MPs in the last four Parliaments had been in favour of amending the 1967 Abortion Act, they had been unable to succeed because of procedural difficulties.

Other speakers in support of the Bill were Mr James Hamilton, Labour MP for Bothwell, Sir Bernard Braine, Conservative MP for Essex, South-East, Mr Michael Ancram, Conservative MP for Edinburgh, South, Mrs Elaine Keiller-Bowman, Conservative MP for Lancaster and Mr Alan Beth, Liberal MP

for Berwick-upon-Tweed. Christians for Free Choice, whose patrons include the Rev Lord Soper and the Rev Chad Varah, the founder of The Samaritans, have sent a letter to every MP supporting the 1967 Abortion Act asking them to vote against Mr Corrie's Bill.

The letter states that if the Bill became law it would result in a return to backstreet abortions which would endanger the health of the poorer women in society. The Abortion Law Reform

Association launched a critical assessment of the anti-abortion lobby with a pamphlet, entitled "Is anti-abortion pro-life?"

It attacks the role of the Roman Catholic Church in attempting to write its religious beliefs into the law by proclaiming it is in favour of "the fight for life".

The pamphlet states that the Church's attitude is not due to a reverence for life. It claims that the Church has often taken a position that is anti-life. For example, it forces women to die rather than have an abortion.

Raising lake 'would kill large area of trees'

From Our Correspondent

Whitehaven

A large area of woodland around Ennerdale Water would be cleared if a proposal by the North West Water Authority to raise the level of the lake went ahead.

Mr William Gillespie, the authority's landscape planning consultant, told the "two lakes" inquiry at Whitehaven yesterday that coniferous trees on a

plantation beside the lake would be felled, exposing four hectares. The site would be used for a treatment works.

"The felling of such an area within the established woodland and the changed drainage conditions brought about by the excavations will increase the likelihood of 'windblow', he said.

"The effects of felling and excavating could therefore re-

sult in the destruction of an even larger area of woodland. The authority seeks planning permission to raise the level of Ennerdale Water by four feet, providing more water for industrial West Cumbria, while British Nuclear Fuels, in a separate application, plans a similar scheme for Westwater to provide more water for

Windscale. The inquiry continues today.

Cigarette cards ruling later

The House of Lords reserved judgment yesterday on the legality of a multi-million pound "Spot Cash" cigarette card scheme launched by Imperial Tobacco to promote sales.

The Attorney General has appealed to the House of Lords against a ruling by the Court of Appeal in March last year that the scheme is lawful.

Tory club is called elitist and hateful

By Ian Bradley

A club set up by the Paddington Conservative Association has been described as "elitist, arrogant and hateful" by one of those invited to join.

Two weeks ago the association sent out about 200 letters to people who had supported the Conservative Party in Paddington inviting them to join the Right Club. The letters were signed by the Duke of Richmond and Gordon, the association's patron.

The object of the club, according to the letters, is to provide an opportunity for the MP for Paddington, Mr John Wheeler, and local councillors to maintain personal contact with influential constituents. Membership of the club is limited and by invitation only. The annual subscription is £100 and members will meet informally for drinks, probably twice a year.

One of those who received a letter, Mr Philip Barker, is a former supporter of the Conservative Party who now belongs to the Labour Party. He is an undischarged bankrupt. He said yesterday that he was appalled by the exclusiveness of the club and the notion that "your views are only worth having if you can pay down £100".

Mr Barker, who teaches at an English language school in Paddington, said that he had left the Conservative Party because he was disturbed by the housing policies of Westminster City Council.

He said that he was particularly worried by the letter in the Duke of Richmond's name to the Labour Party as "one of our greatest enemies". He was also concerned that the views of only the richer members of the community were being given serious consideration by the Government and Tory councillors.

The Duke of Richmond said: "There are such people as big businessmen who are in touch with a far wider public than the average constituents. I think it is an exceedingly good thing for these people to meet."

Mrs Shirley De Winter, the Conservative agent for Paddington, said that the club had been set up purely as an internal fund-raising venture.

Paddington is the fourth most marginal Conservative seat in the country. It was won by Mr Wheeler from Mr Arthur Latham in the last election by 106 votes.

Fastnet rescue awards

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution has awarded "Fastnet Certificates" to the coxswains and crews of British and Irish lifeboats on service during the Fastnet Race last August, when they saved 61 lives.

Oil executive had gag forced down throat, court told

Mr William Kuhn, aged 38, a United States oil executive, was threatened with a gag and had a gag forced down his throat with a stick after an armed gang burst into his home in Chelsea, London, the prosecution said at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Mr Robert Harman, QC, for the Crown, said Mr Kuhn was also beaten and kicked and his wife, aged 36, threatened with rape and death.

The gang, wielding weapons including a knife, an axe and a crowbar, forced their way into the house and demanded valuables.

Mr Harman was opening the case against Joseph McCormack, aged 25, a carpenter, of Campden Road, Fulham, London, who denies taking part in the robbery on April 15 last and causing grievous bodily harm with intent to Mr Kuhn.

Before the trial began five people who admitted taking part in the robbery were sentenced. Christopher Rymill, aged 32, unemployed, of Fenore Estate,

Ninth century 'precedent' for Northern home rule

'England never was' and Fleet Street proves it, lecturer claims

From John Chatterton

Manchester

An academic paper has advanced a theory that could be summed up by the phrase: "There never was an England".

It is by Mr Michael Stead, a Manchester University lecturer, and is being widely circulated by the Campaign for the North organization, which seeks regional government.

Mr Stead, who is a former Liberal Party parliamentary candidate and supports the campaign, sums up his arguments by saying: "England, Scotland and Wales are not equivalent entities; and the use of English, Scottish and Welsh as adjectives describing equivalent political, cultural or geographical phenomena muddles thinking."

There is no English administrative state in the way that both Scotland and Wales have acquired partly autonomous administration. There is no English office, nor Secretary of State for English Affairs. Mr Stead argues that the division of the United Kingdom as a series of arcs centred on London with inner and outer "cores" and an "inner periphery" and an "outer periphery".

According to his theory, the inner core of up to an 80-mile radius from London takes in the City and the South-east; the outer core of up to 200 miles from the capital includes East Anglia, the Midlands and the mid-south or Wessex. Only those two cores, he maintains, constituted Egbert of Wessex's original England of the ninth century.

The inner periphery of 200 to 300 miles from London takes in the North, Wales, and the South-west. The outer periphery includes Scotland and Ireland and the mid-south or Wessex. Only those two cores, he maintains, constituted Egbert of Wessex's original England of the ninth century.

Mr Stead's paper, which was prepared for the Political Studies Association, says: "The English hardly recognize their own identity since they rarely distinguish between what is English and what is British."

The arrangement of the conclusions by the Royal Commission on Devolution, he maintains, was "highly misleading". His paper says: "The simple message from the Royal Commission was that devolution to Scotland and Wales, whilst maintaining the unity of the United Kingdom, was on-yet behind the simple message lay muddled disagreement."

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Fringe theatre refuses to quit demolition site

By Martin Huckerby

A small fringe theatre in the middle of the site for the £40m Trocadero development at Piccadilly Circus is refusing to quit its premises, although demolition has begun on the site.

The Almost Free theatre has received 30 days' notice to quit its building in Rupert Street, but Mr Ed Berman, artistic director of Inter-Action, which is responsible for the theatre, said the cost of moving to a new site was £9,000 for such a small theatre.

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The

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

مكازم الأصيل

Taylor & Woodrow
-taking a constructive approach to every size of project

Nuclear test for Mr Howell, page 17

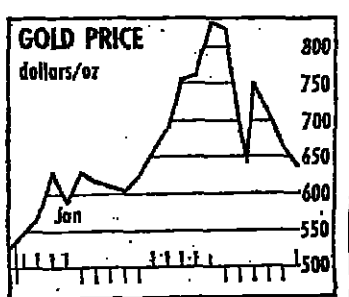
Stock markets	
FT Ind 453.6 up 1.2	FT Gilt 67.64 down 0.14
Sterling	
\$2.2485 down 155 points	Index 71.6 down 0.3
Dollar	
Index 85.1 up 0.2	
Gold	
\$635 an ounce down \$25	
Money	
3 month Sterling 17 1/2-17 3/4	
3 month Euro-S 14 1/2-14 3/4	
6 month Euro-S 14 1/2-14 3/4	

IN BRIEF

EEC action to curb US fibres unlikely

Britain's chance of getting firm action from the European Commission to help stem the flood of cheap synthetic fibre imports from the United States appears to have diminished. Mr Roy Jenkins, the Commission president, agreed with President Carter in Washington last week that the EEC and the United States should avoid unilateral action that might provoke a trade war between the two, at least until February 18. On this date Mr Rueben Askew, America's special trade representative, visits Brussels to negotiate on trade problems between the United States and the European Community.

Gold falls further



The gold price dropped still further yesterday, although it picked up from its lowest level since the end of the day. It closed at \$635 an ounce in London, down \$25 from Friday's close. The afternoon fixing, however, was lower at \$624 an ounce. Sterling slipped back to close at \$2.2485. Later, closing price of gold on the New York Comex was \$627.50.

Dutton board changes

Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland, the Lonrho chairman and David Fraser, who heads the Fraser group, have joined the board of Dutton-Forshaw. Lonrho made a successful £22.8m agreed bid for the Leyland and Rolls-Royce car distributor through its Scottish and Universal investment subsidiary, last October.

£112,000 director

The highest paid director of Associated Newspapers Group, which owns the Daily Mail, was £112,850 in 1979 compared to £46,740 the previous year. Lord Rothermere, the chairman, received £33,705 in 1979.

Loewy's £18.7m order

Loewy Robertson, a member of the Davy Corporation, has won an £18.7m turnkey contract to build a stainless steel plant at Middlebury, South Africa, against competition from West Germany, Japan and the United States.

New Wall St high

The New York Stock Exchange index recorded a new high of 65.96 yesterday, topping the previous record set in January 1973. Turnover increased to 35,650,000 shares and the Dow Jones industrial average rose 2.39 to 878.50.

Saudis raise oil price by \$2 in further effort to unify Opec charges

By Nicholas Hirsch
Energy Correspondent

Saudi Arabia has raised the price of its oil from \$24 to \$26 a barrel in a second attempt to bring back a unified pricing structure to the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. A week before the December meeting of Opec, Saudi Arabia made its first attempt to establish a new unified price to replace the disorderly market which followed the cutbacks of production in Iran by raising the cost of its crude from \$18 to \$24 a barrel.

But it failed in its plan to persuade other Opec members to use \$24 as a base to calculate the value of the differentials for quality and freight costs on their own crudes, and the oil ministers left the meeting in Caracas, Venezuela, free to decide prices for themselves. Saudi Arabia's new price jump once again puts the traditional "benchmark" crude—the Saudi Arabian light—at a level where the higher prices charged by Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq and Venezuela can be justified on grounds of quality and freight.

But the Opec moderates will have to wait to see if the pricing hawks, Libya, Algeria and Iran, use the new rise as a pre-

text to increase their own crude prices before they know if the Saudi strategy has succeeded.

The effect on petrol prices will not be marked. United Kingdom companies taking Saudi Arabian crude—Esso, Mobil and Texaco—could possibly add 2p to a gallon of four star, but the main effect should be to even out the cost of petrol between stations owned by different groups in the same area.

Saudi Arabia's decision to increase prices, backdating the rise to January 1, comes as a surprise. At Caracas, Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the country's oil minister, had said it was his intention to hold the \$24 level for as long as possible. Middle East oil analysts said the decision stemmed from a combination of anger at the sharply higher fourth quarter profits reported over the past few days by members of the Aramco consortium of American companies, which lifts the greater part of Saudi Arabia's production of 9 million barrels a day, and a wish to offer a concrete act of friendship to the Saudis' Arab friends at the Islamic conference which has been considering the

invasion of Afghanistan by the Soviet Union.

But the timing is also precarious. Prices on the spot market have come back sharply from their earlier high levels: Crude of Saudi Arabia light quality is now selling for around \$36 a barrel against nearly \$40 a month ago. Iran has had difficulty getting rid of cargoes priced at \$38.50 and Oman, which is not a member of Opec, has found no takers for its production at similar prices.

At Caracas, Saudi Arabia had been prepared to raise its prices to the \$26 level to bring unity to the market, if other members had fixed their crudes within a relatively narrow band. Libya and Algeria, however, insisted on maintaining a \$5.50 differential which was unacceptable to the Saudi delegation. Libya and Algeria are now pricing their crudes at \$30 but are placing surcharges on their crudes to bring the total cost to between \$3 and \$5 more. Nigeria, however, which produces similar quality oil, has kept its price to \$30, a value reflected in the \$29.75 set for North Sea production by the British National Oil Corporation.

Financial Editor, page 17

Britain must accept high energy costs

By Our Economics Staff

Britain and other countries should take the effects of the oil price rise "on the chin", according to Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Speaking at a lunch for the Association of Economic Representatives in London yesterday, Sir Geoffrey said those countries which had accepted the loss of output from the first big oil price rise in 1973-74 had done better in the end than those which had tried to offset the impact of cheaper oil by expansionary policies. He was echoed by the Secretary-General of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Mr Emile van Lennep, who last night at a meeting in the House of Commons was discussing the prospects for OECD countries at the beginning of the 1980s. Both he and the Chancellor emphasized the serious implications of the recent leap in oil prices for worldwide growth and inflation.

Sir Geoffrey said he believed that countries would be better able to resist the inflationary impact now than in 1974. He acknowledged that this would mean higher nominal interest rates than otherwise, and little if any growth in real incomes. However he said this was not an exercise in collective masochism.

Mr van Lennep suggested, however, that if growth turns down sharply in the major industrialized countries this year, there may be a case for some policy adjustments to offset this.

The OECD Secretary-General concentrated on the need to maintain and increase productivity in investment in Britain and other countries. A big effort to improve profitability by holding down costs relative to prices was necessary, he said. Britain was suffering from weak profitability exacerbated by a strong pound.

He added it was also important to make energy savings over the medium term. Governments tended to avoid unpopular decisions to raise energy costs. The swift reaction of the oil price to changes in demand meant that countries had failed to reduce their energy use in the late 1970s when there was a temporary glut of oil, which made the next oil price rise all the more disruptive.

The Chancellor and Mr van Lennep both devoted some time to the problems of the developing countries in the light of recent oil price rises.

The Chancellor urged developing countries to borrow more from the International Monetary Fund, though many of them are unwilling to do so because of the strict conditions



Mr Emile van Lennep: important to make energy savings.

imposed by the IMF before it lends money.

Mr Van Lennep commented that for developing countries to maintain their creditworthiness, it was essential to keep exports. Industrialized countries should help in this, he said, by providing open markets and should resist the growing tide towards protectionism.

Referring to a recent call by the Confederation of British Industry for easier access to the developing countries, he said this could only be expected if the richer countries also opened up their markets.

Split delays final draft of Wilson City report

By Andrew Goodrick-Clarke
Financial Editor

The chances of the Wilson Committee producing a unanimous report on the functioning of financial institutions received a setback during a weekend meeting of the committee in London.

It was the first time that the entire committee had seen a draft of the report as a whole, for which publication was planned by the end of April.

Nor unexpectedly, wide differences of opinion on several key issues, which have been simmering for some time, surfaced at the meeting. No agreement on the final contents of the report was reached, and the committee decided to meet again next month.

It was expected that several points would need clarifying before a final draft could be sent to the printers, but the differences of opinion may be so wide as to make at least one minority report unavoidable.

Sir Harold Wilson, the committee's chairman, will try hard to avoid any last minute split. He is keenly aware that the value of the report, especially since it will be published under a Conservative government, would be damaged if it was accompanied by a minority report, particularly if they seemed to be taking political sides.

If the timetable, already delayed, is now met, the report—or reports—could be on Mrs Thatcher's desk by mid-April. Since the report was commissioned by Downing Street, it will be up to the Prime Minister to take the decision to publish, though there seems little doubt that she will do so.

PLA will close dock unless progress is made on productivity

By Michael Bailly
Transport Correspondent

The Port of London will close one of its upper docks after all unless faster progress is made on improving productivity and reducing manpower, the PLA board under its new chairman, Mr Victor Paige, said yesterday.

This tough new line comes against a background of current losses of £1.5m a month and only £11m of Government-backed loan facility left to draw on.

So the ailing port is once again within months of running out of cash—this time with a Government that has declared there will definitely be no more money thereafter.

The PLA board still wants to carry out the "concentration option" submitted to the Government last year in which dock upper docks will be kept open and traffic concentrated on parts of them, the board said in a message to staff.

But manpower reductions are over 200 down on the 1,100 target agreed with unions in the plan, and progress in eliminating restrictive practices to improve productivity has been practically ground to a halt, a PLA spokesman said.

If the last ground cannot be made up by June—and this will be "extremely difficult to achieve"—the PLA board said yesterday the authority will start on July 1 to close India and Millwall docks by transferring traffic to the Royals and Tilbury.

The India and Millwall rather than the Royals has been chosen for closure because it will be cheaper to carry out, though savings will be only about £4m a year compared with £5m for the Royals.

Implementation of the productivity plans has slowed after good progress earlier "because



Mr Victor Paige: tough line on £1.5m a month losses.

we have reached a crunch point", a PLA spokesman said. "It is an inter-union matter now; they are all waiting for each other to make sacrifices."

Yesterday's statement was not directly connected with the poor state of present wage negotiations, the PLA said.

The board's 12 per cent offer has been rejected by both dockers' unions, with two one-day strikes so far by the Transport and General Workers' Union, and threats of a longer strike from the Stevedores. But that, together with the gathering effects of the steel strike on the fortunes of the port, clearly does not help.

Last year's loss was £13m after a £5m Government grant towards redundancy costs.

Pay awards stabilize at 12 to 16 per cent

By Patricia Tisdall
Management Correspondent

Company pay settlements are continuing to show wide variations from as little as 5 per cent, according to information published by the Confederation of British Industry yesterday.

No single going rate has emerged, but more than half the settlements registered so far with the CBI's pay databank fall between 12 and 16 per cent.

There was some evidence that settlements were edging upwards, with 16 and 17 per cent becoming more common towards the end of last November. But big agreements lodged in the last two months, including that for the local authority manual workers, has caused the general trend to stabilize closer to the middle of the range. The CBI, having monitored settlements covering about six million workers, reports that the main upward pressure on wages is being generated by the rising cost of living, and the need to recruit labour in some categories. But downward pressure is coming from squeezed profits, the inability of firms to pass on higher wages in prices, and in some cases the threat of redundancies.

Of settlements reported so far, just under a third contain productivity schemes, about a quarter have measures to restore differentials, and about two-fifths contain longer holidays. Although nearly all claims contain demands for a shorter working week, very few settlements—less than 10 per cent—contain commitments to bring in new measures.

Only responsible pay settlements and greater efficiency will allow both higher real profits and lower interest rates, the CBI says in a business bulletin being issued to members dealing with prospects for investment, company closures and redundancies are "very worrying", it states.

Gross profits give a misleading picture of the state of company finances, the bulletin warns. Over the years 1974-1978, for every pound of gross profit received by companies in the United Kingdom, real profit was only 55p.

After paying tax, interest and dividends, companies were left with only 2p to reinvest in improving their businesses. "The position today is even worse, with interest rates at record high levels and real profitability at record low levels, and still falling."

A second bulletin to members deals with prospects for measures and concludes that these are much more likely to put up costs than create jobs. Increased costs generally mean higher prices and more not less unemployment, it says.

The CBI argues that with labour productivity already lower than in most rival countries "Britain can least afford to take the lead with work-sharing measures risking higher costs."

"To reduce hours as a panic work-sharing measure would be disastrous", the CBI says.

Israel plans foreign trade boost

From Christopher Walker
Jerusalem, Jan 28

The ending of Egyptian involvement in the Arab boycott of Israel has prompted the Israeli authorities to plan a new campaign to encourage foreign trade and investment, particularly from Britain.

The end of Egypt's economic embargo began officially last Saturday when the formal normalization of relations between the two countries took place as set out in the Camp David agreements. Over the next few weeks, negotiations for a full trade agreement between Egypt and Israel are expected to take place.

Israeli government officials claim that there are more British companies on the Arab blacklist in proportion to the size of its economy than any other country.

"It seems that sensitivity to the boycott is particularly strong in Britain because of the long history of trade with the Middle East", Mr Moshe Kobi, a leading member of the finance ministry's self-styled

"anti-boycott unit", explained. It is understood that the new Israeli campaign will centre on attempts to convince individual companies and important chambers of commerce that the benefits of trading in the joint Israeli-Egyptian market are worth the risk of upsetting other Arab states still operating the boycott.

"The progress of the peace treaty offers considerable economic opportunities which we will be trying to explain to British businessmen," Mr Kobi said. "We will be outlining the advantages of trading with a combined market of over 43 million people."

Altogether the Israelis estimate that some 6,000 companies throughout the world are now trading with Israel or of having Jewish connections," he said.

Recently-published figures show that in 1979, Britain's exports to Israel totalled £207.6m, making it the third largest market for British goods in the Middle East.

The Israelis will also be emphasizing the general advantages for trade arising from the new stability created in the region by the peace treaty. Government ministers have been heartened by President Sadat's recent pledge to accelerate the process of complete normalization, including economic ties, ahead of the Camp David deadline.

Aluminium contracts with Dubai thrown into doubt

By Michael Prest

Dubai Aluminium (Dubai), the recently completed £440m smelter and refinery in the United Arab Emirates, is trying to cancel long-term supply contracts with its two main customers, Alcan UK and Southwire, an American company.

The move comes after a steep rise in aluminium prices and persistent rumours about the strained financial position of the emirate of Dubai.

Both the main customers are refusing to disclose details of their contracts but Alcan admits that it is engaged in "unexpected" negotiations with Dubai and has run into problems which were not anticipated.

Other industry sources said that Dubai has cancelled the contract. One commented that there was "no way for a respectable supplier to behave". Alcan and Southwire are believed to have agreed long-term contracts for the output, valued at 135,000 tonnes a year. Since

then aluminium prices have trebled, squeezed on one side contracts in 1976 to buy the by the cost of energy and on the other by demand for the metal as an energy saver, particularly in vehicles. The spot price of aluminium in London last night was £870 a tonne.

Dubai's finances have been constantly stretched by the ambitions of its ruler, Sheikh Rashid Dubai was originally meant to cost about \$600m but the actual completion price is thought to have been nearer \$1,000m.

The emirate is not a major oil producer and the plant is supposed to be fired by associated natural gas from a companion project, Dubai Gas (Dugas). It was against Dugas that Lloyds Bank International partly secured a \$350m loan to Dubai last year after other bankers had declined to commit funds to Dubai.

Dubai is scheduled to begin operating fully towards the end of the year.

Sasse group insurance brokers see pre-tax losses double to £1.2m

By Richard Allen
Insurance Correspondent

Brentnall Beard, the publicly-quoted insurance broking group which played a prominent role in the Sasse affair at Lloyd's, saw pre-tax losses more than double to £1.2m in the year to the end of September.

Mr Maurice Fullerton, the company "doctor" brought in last summer to turn the group round, admitted last night that Brentnall had suffered badly in the wake of Sasse. But he added: "We are definitely not going bust."

The Sasse underwriting syndicate was suspended facing losses of over £20m. More than half of this total relates to North American fire insurance business channelled to it through Brentnall's Lloyd's broking subsidiary, Brentnall Beard International.

Disciplinary action is being taken by Lloyd's against the subsidiary and three former Brentnall directors, including Mr Stanley Elsbury, the retired chairman, as well as leading figures in the Sasse syndicate. Proceedings, however, continue to be delayed by the failure so far of certain parties to appoint arbitrators as required under Lloyd's regulations.

Mr Fullerton, whose appointment was arranged by Brentnall's merchant bankers, Brown Shipley, said yesterday that publicity over the Sasse inquiry had seriously affected the group's ability to obtain new business, particularly in the United States and Canada. However, he blamed recession in insurance industry as the main reason for the poor results as well as escalating costs and losses in associate companies.

After taking action to reduce costs—it is understood that

staff has been halved—Mr Fullerton is predicting a "significant improvement in results for the current year."

Latest results include 11 months' figures from Brentnall's United Kingdom profit-making subsidiary which was sold to Hogg Robinson in a £1.6m deal last August. After write-offs including goodwill proceeds from this sale come down to £474,000 contained in latest figures as an extraordinary credit.

Mr Fullerton said that he did not dispute the "normal" Lloyd's broking subsidiary or its profitable underlying agency interests to be affected by the Lloyd's inquiry. He added: "The group is now liquid and the assets probably probably work out at about 8p or 9p a share. All I need now is to be left alone to get on with the job of bringing the group back into profit."

Brentnall's shares closed unchanged last night at 12p.

Moves to replace airliner spares lost in factory fire

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

In an effort to keep its 70 customer airlines and other operators flying, British Aerospace is preparing a speedy replacement programme for airframe spares lost in a fire at its Weybridge factory on Sunday.

British Aerospace staff spent yesterday identifying spares held at other depots, notably at Dulles airport, Washington, as well as at customers' own facilities around the world and at private stockholders. An official said last night: "We know of no aircraft at the moment which is on the ground as a result of the fire."

The blaze caused damage estimated at £20m. Spares for Concorde, 1-11, Viscount, VC 10, Vanguard and Britannia airliners were among those destroyed in the fire.

One of the private companies expecting an upsurge of orders because of the fire at Weybridge is Aerocontract, of Horley, Surrey, part of the SCORA group.

HABIT PRECISION ENGINEERING LIMITED

Notice is hereby given of the appointment of Lloyds Bank Limited as Registrar. All documents for registration and correspondence should in future be sent to the address below:

D.M. WADDELL
Secretary



Lloyds Bank Limited,
Registrars Department,
Goring-by-Sea,
Worthing, West Sussex BN12 6DA.
Telephone: Worthing 502541
(STD code 0903)

PRICE CHANGES

Rises		Falls	
BP	6p to 342p	Distillers	2p to 207p
Camrex Hldgs	3p to 40p	Dixon D.	10p to 101p
Dunlop Hldgs	2p to 61p	Dixon	3p to 30p
Eucalyptus Pulp	4p to 105p	Henry	8p to 90p
Hampton Gold	10p to 300p	McCleery L'Amie	1p to 10p

THE POUND

Bank		Bank	
Australia S	2.10	Norway Kr	11.50
Austria Sch	29.75	Portugal Esc	119.00
Belgium Fr	68.00	Spain Pta	156.00
Canada S	2.69	Sweden Kr	9.74
Denmark Kr	12.70	Switzerland Fr	2.31
Finland Mkk	9.48	USA S	53.00
France Fr	4.12	Yugoslavia Dnr	49.00
Germany Dm	100.00		
Greece Dr	11.20		
Hong Kong S	137.00		
Italy Lira	1975.00		
Japan Yen	360.00		
Netherlands Gld	4.53		

Speedier sums add up to a race to be first with Budget advice

Bank and Treasury jostle for Chancellor's ear

The days when Treasury economists had a monopoly of the Chancellor's ear are long gone. But the large numbers and the Treasury's huge and detailed forecasting model mean it is still largely their advice which determines the framework for economic policy making.

The Bank of England has recently been doing its best to make sure that its voice is heard more clearly, restructuring its organization to put more emphasis on policy advice. Now it seems that the Bank's economic forecasters are doing their sums a little earlier in order to finish before the Treasury.

Previously the conclusions of the Bank's back-room boys often landed on important desks a crucial few days after the bigger Treasury operation had ended.

They were thus too late to influence the figures in the Treasury papers, and "delivered" when many people in Government had had a surfeit of forecasts and predictions.

This forecasting round, the Bank aims to complete its prognostications ahead of the Treasury. Economists both here and at "the other end of town"—the Treasury—are now deep into the latest forecasts. The Treasury hopes to finish by the middle of February, leaving the Chancellor just over a month to get his Budget ready.

The doom and gloom which has come out of the Treasury in recent months has already done something to bring the Bank's figuring under close ministerial inspection. Last autumn, Treasury ministers turned to the Bank's forecasters for a ray of hope after the

Treasury had delivered its first bleak picture of the year ahead. Signals from the Treasury suggest that it is even more pessimistic this time round.

So the Bank of England has just a couple of weeks left if it is to produce earlier. Its forecast goes first to the Governor, who may simply use it to inform his discussions with the Chancellor or may pass on some of the numbers.

At a lower level there are many contacts between Bank and Treasury economists although discussions between them tend to centre around the Treasury's model and not that of the Bank.

On the other hand, ministers appear to be more realistic about the prospects for the economy and the costs involved in their attempt to bring down inflation through tight money.

They must be prepared to see worse figures, if only because of the huge rise in oil prices since the last published forecasts in November. Although this boosts government revenues, it also hits at growth and worsens inflation.

The Bank's recent reshuffle still leaves some of its advisers on a bit of a limb—most notably Mr John Fleming, the new chief adviser who has given up the chance of a chair in economics at Oxford to add weight to the Bank's economic advice.

He has no staff assigned to him as yet: maybe this will change by the autumn when he comes to take up his post in Threadneedle Street on a full time basis.

Caroline Atkinson



\$305m Soviet deals hang fire in Italy

Three important contracts between Italian companies and the Soviet Union are reported to be in doubt because of the tougher stance adopted by Italy in the wake of the United States action over the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

The Foreign Trade ministry has been informed from Moscow that it is ready to conclude the contracts, provided credit facilities are available. These include one of \$150m (about £66m) for the provision of a chemical plant by Techintrom (Montedison Group); of \$85m for the sale by SNIA Viscosa of fibre manufacturing equipment; and of \$70m for the supply of plant and equipment by Pirelli.

The Italian government, however, has postponed a visit by a Soviet economic delegation to discuss raising the current credit line, nearly exhausted, of \$650m to \$1,000m or \$1,200m.

Meanwhile negotiations are reported to be under way for the opening of a \$100m credit line by Isveimer, a publicly owned credit institute, with the Bank of China to promote exports to China.

Stuttgart stoppage
IG Metall, the West German metal workers' union, called a stoppage yesterday at a Standard Electric Lorenz AG plant in Stuttgart. IG Metall was a 9.5 to 10 per cent wage increase. The factory offered 4.8 per cent.

China project decision
China is planning to build 25 per cent of facilities in the second phase of construction of the giant steelworks on the outskirts of Shanghai, according to Japan's Nippon Steel Corporation which has been operating the project. Peking authorities notified the company of their decision recently.

US patent law changes
Stirred by warnings of an "innovation lag" in industry, the United States Congress is starting to work seriously on changes in patent law intended to bring new products into the market-place.

Oil search off Jamaica
Norway is discussing the possibility of collaborating with the Jamaican government in exploring for oil off Jamaica's southern coast. Feasibility studies will begin next Monday.

Futures popular
The New York futures exchange has received 1,570 membership applications. If it accepted them all, it would be bigger than its parent, the New York Stock Exchange (1,366 members) and the Chicago Board of Trade (1,402).

China's loan policy
China is using funds borrowed from abroad mainly to boost production and exploit natural resources so it can export goods and earn more foreign exchange, said Mr Bu Wing, the Bank of China president in Peking. He said: "We consider our ability to repay first when arranging foreign loans. We honour our commitments and repay loans on time."

\$20m Arab order
Telefonaktiebolaget LM Ericsson says in Stockholm it has received a contract worth around \$20m (nearly £9m) to supply and install digital telephone exchanges at various locations in the United Arab Emirates.

Stores group hopes volume growth will cover price cuts on 300 items

Renewed pressure on retail margins

Some reawakening of the High Street price war, with the prospect of retailers' margins being cut back to 1978 levels, seems likely after the announcement yesterday by Leeds-based Asda Stores of a wide range of price cuts of between 5 per cent and 20 per cent.

Asda, part of Associated Dairies Group and Britain's largest supermarket operator, is already on average the most consistently cheapest selling multiple according to Audits of Great Britain (AGB).

Increased competition at a time when retail trade prospects look gloomy is only one of several new costs pressures on the multiples. Local authorities are growing much tougher about granting planning permission for the cheaper out-of-town sites, driving new retail development back to town centres or edge-of-town sites.

Mr Bob Muir, managing director of International Stores, the BAT Industries subsidiary, said yesterday that the chain's nine superstores would be expanded to 40 or more by the mid-1980s but none of the new stores would be out of town. A fully in-town development was probably twice as costly as one out of town, he added.

Asda, which operates 52 superstores with 10 more being built, has another 30 or more possible development sites in the pipeline but a third are in-town or edge-of-town. This was a much higher percentage of town sites than before, said Mr Peter Firmston-Williams, Asda's managing director.

Retailers also face either in the coming Budget or in 1981 the probable phasing out of stock appreciation relief, which has meant for several years non-payment of corporation tax.

However, Tesco Stores, whose finance director Mr Ralph Temple is campaigning for the construction part of retail development, allows industrial building tax allowances, expects no slow-



Mr Firmston-Williams: seeking major growth in Asda's share of the market.

ing down in any of the multiples' dash into superstore growth.

Mr Temple has argued that higher costs will mean higher prices because of tight retail profit margins. But if Asda's wide-ranging reductions stimulate more price competition, it is margins that are likely to suffer.

Asda, which is cutting prices of 120 food items and 130 non-food, is bargaining on keeping its net margins steady by increasing its sales volume. A £1 million advertising campaign, including television commercials, is backing the campaign.

The group's store opening programme — it wants to develop 10 district centres a year — will also gear up the volume of sales. But the price-cutting campaign is intended to make a major contribution with no intention of making it a short-term promotion.

Mr Firmston-Williams said: "We do not believe in loss leaders. Any loss in profit margin will be more than recovered

from increased volume and the Asda market share should show a proportionate growth". Asda, at present holding a 7 per cent market share, was aiming at between 10 per cent and 12 per cent by 1985.

A spokesman for the group claims it will save its present customers £5m in a full year. But Tesco's Operation Checkout, which started the latest High Street price war more than two years ago, discounted its prices by around £20m, although on a trade accounting for about twice the present Asda market share.

Mr Firmston-Williams was at pains yesterday to play down the prospect of a major intensification of the price war. He did not think competitors would follow because they had already announced their own campaigns, such as the Discount 80 of J. Sainsbury.

But he agreed that the easing of retail margins seen during last year was likely to turn round. "We could see a return to 1978 margins", he said.

Sainsbury said yesterday it saw the Asda move as a response particularly to its own discount campaign. It also contested Asda's claim to being the cheapest selling multiple, claiming that AGB figures did not include some hypermarkets.

Sainsbury's own price survey showed it more competitive than Asda in superstores and hypermarkets and only marginally behind in supermarkets, the company claimed. But most of Sainsbury outlets are supermarkets.

International Stores yesterday announced introduction of laser scanning of goods to check out the tills. The system, which is early in March, a system on which most major multiples are committed to trials. International is looking to the new system for greater efficiency and competitiveness.

Derek Harris

Egyptians refuse to pay Arab deposits

Cairo, Jan 28 — Egypt's government has balked at Arab demands for the return of \$2,000m banked here, arguing it has the right to forfeit politically motivated attempts to wreck the economy.

But top Egyptian officials said the government has not permanently frozen or seized the petrodollar accounts. The officials contend that, for national security reasons, the money cannot be released now, and the suggestion seems to be that the money is just not available.

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq complained to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) last year that the accounts were blocked and called on the IMF to take action. At Egypt's request, the IMF last week delayed consideration of the Arab complaints until March.

Mr Mustafa Khalil, the Egyptian Prime Minister, denied that his country intended to keep the deposits, which date back to the 1960s. He said: "When someone comes and asks me to pay a certain sum of money, and I say I don't have it but give me a chance, that doesn't mean I am not going to pay it back."

Western diplomatic sources say, \$30m from Iraq, \$800m from Kuwait and more than \$1,000m from Saudi Arabia is deposited in Egypt. Only Iraq and Kuwait are known to have asked for some or all of their deposits returned.

Mr Gamal Nazer, Egypt's Minister of State, said the deposits were intended as economic aid and had been used for collateral to obtain loans and import emergency supplies. "We definitely can't come up with all of it now," Mr Nazer said, adding that Kuwaiti and Saudi officials repeatedly assured Egypt as late as mid-1977 that the money would never be withdrawn. That was before President Anwar Sadat's peace-making journey to Israel in November 1977 and a 17-nation Arab boycott of Egypt in protest at the Egyptian-Israeli peace pact. Sanctions adopted include the withdrawal of deposits from Egyptian banks.

The sudden withdrawal of vast amounts of hard currency could wreck havoc on Egypt's economy. "It could cause a monetary crisis," Mr Nazer conceded.

Lockheed research may herald 'all-electric' aircraft controls

Aircraft could be using electric control systems in place of conventional hydraulic and pneumatic systems by the late 1980s if research at the Lockheed-Georgia Company in the United States proves successful.

It would represent the first major change in aircraft systems for over 30 years. Among the expected benefits are simplification in operation and weight-saving.

It is assumed that the aircraft would be powered by conventional jet engines using aviation fuel. The secondary power system, used, for example, for lowering the landing gear and providing the "muscle" for moving flying control surfaces such as elevator and rudder, would be based on electric generators and motors using "earth magnets" which are claimed to be much stronger than traditional magnets.

Hydraulic systems, using compressed liquid to move and control the aircraft subsystems, are admittedly efficient but, according to Lockheed-Georgia, are complex and expensive and require considerable maintenance.

"The new electric systems would be twice as good in terms of maintainability and reliability," the company states. "They would also weigh less, thus reducing cost and fuel consumption." Another expected advantage is that the fire risk would be less.

On the basis of research to date, the company estimates that an "all-electric" medium-range transport aircraft would, over its lifetime, cost about £50m less to build, operate and maintain than a conventional one.

From Farnborough comes a new technique of radar imaging and special computer-based processing which has enabled the Royal Aircraft Establishment there to produce high-quality photographs of parts of Britain from radar pictures taken by the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Seasat satellite.

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This is the company's response to a growing demand in the installation and construction industries for equipment capable of this improved performance. In fact, there is a need to be able to install complex computing, heating, and/or communications equipment in buildings several hundred feet high.

Technology News

Satellite pictures of the earth taken at optical wavelengths provide little information at night or when the surface is obscured by cloud. Radar wavelengths can be used to cut through these obstacles, but the resulting pictures are normally much coarser because the wavelengths are longer.

Special "synthetic aperture" radar techniques, and pulse compression, were adopted on the Seasat satellite to give the equivalent performance of a 4km diameter aerial, radiating at 500kHz.

The radar data were beamed down to the European Space Agency's Earthnet ground terminal at Oakham, Hampshire. The processing needed to constitute the pictures was done at Farnborough using a special computer system developed by Systems Designers of Cambridge.

Each picture contains up to 6,250,000 pixels or picture points defining various shades of grey, and takes up to eight seconds to transmit. One processed picture of the St Bride's Bay and Milford Haven area showed a surface resolution of 25 metres.

Main objective of the Seasat experiment was to measure the behaviour of the world's oceans. It was designed to show potential users how specialized satellites could provide useful data to weather forecasters, shipping companies, safety organizations, fisheries, environmental protection managers and other groups.

A new crane design means that greater weights can be lifted to greater heights with a novel crane boom, known as the Octag, which was launched by Coles Cranes in London yesterday. It is the result of a £500,000 research programme by the company.

This is Coles's response to a growing demand in the installation and construction industries for equipment capable of this improved performance. In fact, there is a need to be able to install complex computing, heating, and/or communications equipment in buildings several hundred feet high.

lution and construction industries for equipment capable of this improved performance. In fact, there is a need to be able to install complex computing, heating, and/or communications equipment in buildings several hundred feet high.

In the Octag design the normal rectangular cross-section is replaced by one that is octagonal. This outer shell is further strengthened by heavy metal ribs within the octagonal tube which bears most of the stress as the crane is telescoped to its full extent.

The previous designs, the further the telescopic crane was extended the smaller the load it could take. Increasing the dimensions of the rectangular sections added further weight.

Using the new design, Coles claims that cranes can lift 30 per cent lighter and can lift 30 per cent greater weights to distances 10 per cent more than anything previously achieved by conventional designs.

In research which began 21 years ago Coles simulated a range of hexagonal, trapezoidal and octagonal constructions on a computer-based design system before concluding that the octagonal layout was best.

Price of an Octag crane able to lift 155 tons will be about £250,000. Smaller models will also be produced in a bid to satisfy the crane hire market.

The Department of Industry is to sponsor a study of the applications of microelectronics in manufacturing industries, to be carried out by the consultancy division of the Computing Services Association. Beginning next month, the project is expected to be completed in about eight months.

This was announced recently by Dr Douglas Eysenck, the newly appointed director-general of the association. The CSA has over 170 member companies, representing over 90 per cent of the United Kingdom computing services industry.

Kenneth Owen and Bill Johnstone

UK motor products' trade deficit for first time

By Edward Townesend

For the first time, Britain's motor industry, including the relatively buoyant components sector, has suffered a deficit in its balance of foreign trade.

A surplus of earnings for all motor products of £763m in 1978 became a deficit of £287m last year, when the major factor in the turnover was a fall of 12 per cent in the value of car exports, from £924m to £817m.

In contrast, car imports rose in value by 46 per cent to £2,582m. All other motor products produced a balance in favour of the United Kingdom. Commercial vehicle exports were worth £619m last year compared with imports of £373m, exports of motor components and accessories were valued at £1,913m (imports £1,149m) and other motor products exported were worth £702m (imports £234m).

Meanwhile, the Government has again dismissed the possibility of car import controls. Mr David Mitchell, Under Secretary of State for Industry, told the Commons that the only true answer was for British companies to produce vehicles of "a quality and price that consumers can afford".

He said the total number of vehicles produced in the United Kingdom last year was 1.48 million the lowest for 10 years. In 1969, home manufacturers produced 2.18 million vehicles and the car import penetration that year was 10 per cent. In 1979, foreign cars captured 56 per cent of sales.

John Brown workers told to raise output to safeguard jobs

By Philip Robinson

The 16,000 workforce of one of Britain's leading engineering companies will receive a letter from their chairman today, saying effectively that unless productivity improves jobs will be lost.

Mr John Mayhew-Sanders, who heads the international John Brown group, says that the company is "facing difficult times, if not a crisis".

Mr Mayhew-Sanders states that the men and women on the shop floor, in the office and in the field of installation are only half or a third as productive as their counterparts in Japan, Germany and the United States.

This is partly because management has sometimes failed to identify and implement available modern methods, he says, "but is overwhelmingly the result of what I will describe as a general but not universal absence of positive cooperation".

His letter adds: "If we fail to do something about this problem, the orders for the sort of goods that we engineer and manufacture will be harder still to win than they are already."

"To get what business we can, we will have to be highly competitive by the best international standards."

Mr Mayhew-Sanders says the solutions "will not be easy to achieve but need not be all that difficult. We are already taking steps to this end."

John Brown's chief executives are already drawing up comprehensive plans for the improvement of productivity and competitiveness. The group hopes to implement these in the next few years.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Archaic' infrastructure service impeding economic growth

From the Director General, the Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors

Sir, While agreeing in general terms with your leader "Public borrowing must fall" (January 24), I should like to draw the attention of your readers to one particular aspect of public expenditure. That is the low level of capital investment made by successive governments in the country's basic infrastructure.

Over the past five years, the share of public expenditure put into capital investment has shrunk from 20.1 per cent to 14.3 per cent. The decline in the proportion devoted to basic civil engineering expenditure is even more marked—from 5.1 per cent to 3.7 per cent.

This expenditure, on roads and bridges, water and sewerage services, and other major capital items, provides an essential platform for the efficient operation of almost all other industries, both in the private and the public sector.

If this country is to hold its own with its overseas competitors, it is essential for the private sector of industry, upon which the bulk of our exports depend, to have the benefit of an efficient internal transportation system of roads, rail and ports, coupled with those other basic infrastructure services such as adequate and reliable water and sewerage facilities and power.

The significance of investment in national infrastructure can be seen from the fact that the proportion of GDP (as a percentage) spent on civil engineering in West Germany is twice as much as in the United Kingdom. In pure monetary terms, because their GDP is higher than ours, West Germany spends over four and a half times as much per annum on basic infrastructure as does this country.

In France, the percentage of GDP spent on infrastructure is 50 per cent higher than here and in monetary terms two and

a half times our own spending. The relative state of the German and French economies compared with this country can be attributed in no small measure to their investment.

Unfortunately, we have seen successive governments neglect this essential investment to a point where parts of our infrastructure are now so archaic and under-maintained as to create an impediment to the growth of the private sector upon which our national economic wellbeing depends. In view of its commitment to revitalising private manufacturing industry, the Government must play its part in directing the necessary funds to this vital capital investment.

Yours faithfully,
DEREK GAULTER,
Director General,
Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors
Cowdrey House,
6 Portland Street,
London WC2A 2HH,
January 24.

Finniston report could harm civil engineering

From Mr Hugh Ferguson

Sir, The Finniston report on engineering concentrates on the

industry, as the construction view now. Civil engineers have no wish to oppose changes which will help manufacturing industry to recover from its present parlous state: indeed, they would like to do all they can to help. Nor are they suffering from an overdose of arrogance or complacency—civil engineering has plenty of problems of its own.

But they surely do not recognize their own industry in Finniston's analysis of the ills of manufacturing. And they can hardly be expected to welcome the remedy when the diagnosis clearly applies to a different patient.

Civil engineers are already required to be chartered for almost all responsible engineering jobs, unlike their colleagues in manufacturing, and they are already well represented in middle and senior management of most companies. Their standards of education and training are already higher than Finniston proposes. And the setbacks of the civil engineering industry in recent years are attributable principally to government expenditure cuts and not at all to any drop in performance compared with overseas competition.

Yet not once does the Finniston report acknowledge that

these differences exist, let alone discuss their implications. Nor does it appear that much thought has been taken on the construction view now.

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But they surely do not recognize their own industry in Finniston's analysis of the ills of manufacturing. And they can hardly be expected to welcome the remedy when the diagnosis clearly applies to a different patient.

Many of Finniston's proposals may be beneficial for civil engineering. Many others will not. But, before decisions are taken, we need an urgent review of the applicability of Finniston to civil engineering, possibly sponsored jointly by the Department of the Environment, which knows much about construction, and the Department of Industry. Otherwise permanent damage may be done to civil engineering in this country.

HUGH FERGUSON,
Editor,
New Civil Engineer,
26/34 Old Street,
London EC1V 9AD.

Sea water rich source of gold

From Mr Aron Vecht

Sir, In view of the ever-increasing price of gold, it might suggest that a plant be set up to recover gold and precious metals from sea water and from industrial waste products?

This would create jobs and be in keeping with present government monetary policy.

As a first step, we could revive at least one "Quango" to assess the feasibility of this idea.

Yours faithfully,
ARON VECHT,
Phosphor Consultants,
95 Corringham Road,
London, NW11,
January 18.

Hongkong export checks

From Mr George B. Rigal

Sir, I am lost in admiration of the illogicality of the proposals made by the Tailors and Garment Workers' Union leader Mr Alec Smith, reported in your columns on January 23.

His argument is that, because the People's Republic of China is alleged to have manufactured jeans for export to the United States which bear a label saying that they were made in Hongkong, all clothing made in Hongkong should no longer be allowed to be imported into the United Kingdom.

A similar proposition would be that if an item was made in Japan, it should not be imported into the United Kingdom.

UK "all countries would then be entitled to ban the importation of every kind of United Kingdom manufacture."

No doubt Mr Alec Smith is acting in what he believes to be the interests of his union, but does he not service by using arguments of this kind and only succeeds in throwing doubt on

those of his arguments that may have some validity.

I spend much of my time visiting garment factories in the principal exporting countries of the Far East and there is no government which enforces the regulations on the origin of garments more strictly than does the Hongkong Government. Factories are subject to regular spot checks, and the implementation of the very drastic quota regulations are scrupulously enforced.

I can assure Mr Alec Smith that in Hongkong there are no "icebergs" and the "tip" of the one he believes he has sighted is not the top of a mountain of big jeans destined for the United Kingdom which has been deliberately submerged by the Hongkong Government.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE RIGAL,
Buyer,
L. D. Abraham & Co. Ltd.,
104-110 Goswell Road,
London EC1V 7DJ.

Encouraging the search for minerals

From Mr T. H. H. Skeet, MP for Bedford (Conservative)

Sir, I think that both Sir Kingsley Dunham and Sir Peter Kent (January 9) have done little justice to the problem in suggesting that the way ahead for the development of minerals lies in the nationalization of undiscovered resources.

The use of petroleum on the landed areas of the United Kingdom as an illustration is demonstrably not a good one, as Messrs Seymour, Kennedy and Sharpe (January 14) have revealed. Further, on the Continental Shelf the ownership of oil does not vest in the Crown pursuant to the Continental Shelf Act, 1964, but only the right to grant licences to explore for and exploit the resources lying beneath the seabed.

It is not ownership that matters but control, and this has been effectively secured for the state in the case of petroleum by at least five Acts of Parliament and the Regulations that accompany them: Petroleum (Production) Act, 1934, Continental Shelf Act, 1964, Petroleum and Submarine Pipe-lines Act, 1975, Oil Taxation Act, 1975-80, and the Energy Act, 1976. In fact, maximum work has been undertaken when maximum incentive has been provided, and least effort has been expended when regulations have proved unduly onerous. The whole policy of the Government should be to

persuade those with expertise and experience to develop work national resources within the context of a national programme. Ownership is irrelevant.

The real problem today is not so much the location of minerals as the access to them which is hindered by the environmental lobby and by complex provisions of town and country planning Acts. The National Parks rich in minerals are a case in point, and it matters little whether there is a state or private undertaking seeking exploration rights. The National Coal Board has disapproved its open-cast coal programme and has been held up by prolonged enquiries.

Whether we like it or not the vesting of coal in the Crown in 1938 (Coal Act, 1938) led to the development of the coal industry in a way not really beneficial to the future industrialization of the United Kingdom. The inelastic structure established by the 1946 Act has prevented the British Steel Corporation from owning collieries for coking coal, the Electricity Generating Board from mining steam coal for power, and the Coal Board from preventing the British Gas Corporation in due time from mining coals of the correct specification for gasification and liquefaction.

Minerals in private ownership can be developed in the national interest through the provisions

of the Mines (Working Facilities and Support) Act, 1966, particularly those sections dealing with the acquisition of ancillary rights.

Surely what Sir Kingsley and Sir Peter really have in mind is the continued accessibility of minerals suitable for industrial requirements in the future. This could be adequately secured by the revision of the Mining Exploration and Investment Grants Act, 1972, by more sympathetic provision in periodic town and country planning Acts and by state-funding of strategic stocks of key minerals.

The latter point requires a little further explanation. The current role of the state in my view is not to own the minerals in situ but to license their mining by the private sector, leaving it to the Government to provide an economic climate in which they could operate and to protect the national interest. Further, it should provide strategic stocks comparable to the steps taken in France when an investment of £175m (£1,160m) is to be funded by means managed by Caisse Française de Matières Premières. Metals covered by the arrangement include copper, tungsten and chrome, and may be extended to platinum, zirconium and cobalt.

T. H. H. SKEET,
House of Commons,
London, SW1.

Building society savers and capital appreciation

From Professor J. Parry Lewis

Sir, In your extensive coverage of the Stew Report on building society finance you give no indication that this committee has considered what must surely be the key point, which is that lenders have no share in the capital appreciation that their loans finance. It is almost

20 years since I first pointed out that because of this loans to building societies would become increasingly unattractive, and that we should devise schemes that ensured that the borrower paid, and the lender received, annual sums related to the current value of the asset financed by the loan.

At that time I was fobbed off with stories of administrative difficulties. Poppycock! J. PARRY LEWIS,
Professor of the Economics of Regions and Town,
Department of Town and Country Planning,
University of Manchester,
Manchester 13.

RATNERS (Jewellers) Limited

Extract from Interim Statement

- Group Profits 28% higher.
- Group Sales 17% higher.
- Interim Dividend increased by 20%.
- Ten branches opened in 9 months.
- Outcome for the year viewed with confidence (last year's pre-tax profits -£2,559,

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Interest rates ahead of the Budget

The Bank of England had to provide the discount houses with very large assistance again yesterday and it looks like being another very tight week in money markets. Indeed, the present tightness could persist for several weeks yet given that the tax-paying season has still to run its full course.

What happens beyond that remains to be seen. The three obvious factors that will come into play are the trend in private sector loan demand, the need (or otherwise) for the authorities to activate fresh funding, and the way the authorities choose to play the scheduled recall of Special Deposits, due on February and March.

The less obvious factor lurking in the background is the possible trend in US rates. Are they simply taking a breather on their downward path, or are they about to test last autumn's peak? Certainly, the general expectation now seems to be that there will not even be a modest cut in MLR ahead of the Budget and, some would say, perhaps not even then.

What is interesting is whether the Chancellor would in fact announce a specific cut in MLR in the Budget speech. On the face of it, it would seem more sensible to express the hope that interest rates could be quickly lowered and then watch market reaction to the Budget before deciding precisely how much to cut MLR. The trouble here, of course is that the change in Budget day leaves precious little time for the market to sort itself out before Thursday lunchtime, the traditional time for changing MLR. By waiting a whole week, however, the Chancellor could give us all an Easter egg.

Oil profits

Assessing the Saudi move

Just how beneficial access to cheaper Saudi Arabian crude has been for the Aramco partners at a time when rising oil prices have led to a dramatic improvement in product margins was amply reflected last week with full year profits, gains ranging from 55 per cent at Exxon to 106 per cent at Texaco.

The results from oil groups more closely tied to the United States market now appear to bear out the majors' contention that the lion's share of the improvement comes from overseas where refining margins have improved sharply from their depressed 1978 level.

Price controls in the United States have resulted in much more modest gains for United States-based companies. Union Oil of California, for example, managed only a 26 per cent gain when it reported last week and yesterday Shell Oil, the United States arm of the Royal Dutch group, announced a 38 per cent rise in net income to \$1,100m.

Better natural gas and crude oil prices pushed up the oil and gas contribution to income by almost a half to \$747m while after the previous year's drop of more than a quarter earnings from chemicals jumped \$73m to \$173m.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia's move yesterday to raise the price of its market crude from \$24 to \$26 a barrel coming at a time of weakness in spot markets and the difficulties some other Opec producers are having selling their output means that the crude price advantage the Aramco partners have been enjoying for so long will begin to disappear.

Not that share prices of the United States majors have been reflecting this competitive advantage in recent months as investors have worried about the effect of the windfall profits tax and the insecurity of Opec supplies. The majors will however continue to benefit from higher crude prices but it now looks as though the big gainers in the months to come from the Saudi move will be those with United States production which will become increasingly lucrative as oil prices are deregulated.

Accounting standards

The enforcement dilemma

Not all senior accountants are convinced that the apparent trend towards increasingly rigid reporting standards is in the interest either of the profession or the financial

community it is meant to serve. Over the past decade it has become the accepted wisdom that rule-making would solve the auditor's problem.

Strict standards of reporting and strict standards of auditing would prevent the collapse of apparently sound companies without warning, and where the odd mishap failed to be caught in an ever tightening net, the auditor would be exposed for failing to do his job properly and under new disciplinary procedures, would be justly punished.

But is this the right approach? The inflation accounting debate has highlighted the uncertainty involved in assessing company profitability. The profession has been moving towards an acceptable system, but it is far from universally agreed that any method based on ED 24 will produce a definitive answer to the everlasting search for a definition of how profit should be measured.

The more complex the questions the Accounting Standards Committee tries to solve, whether it be leasing, currency or recognition of mineral reserves, the more difficult it becomes to gain general agreement that one method provides the right answer.

If only the standards could be enforced, the argument goes, then agreement could be reached rapidly. Of the big firms, Arthur Andersen personifies this view, believing that the profession moves too slowly and that a little of the big stick, possibly from government, would go a long way to solving the problems. But would that be a good idea? If there are genuinely differing methods of presenting figures, if rigid standards must always involve exceptions being made for companies which failed to fit into the general mould, should this not be reflected in the way standards are set and accounts drawn up?

At the moment where a technical breach of a standard is made, an auditor is obliged to qualify his report. The Auditing Standards Committee has laid down how this should be done to reflect the weight of the qualification. Some auditors feel, nevertheless, that the importance of qualifications is being permanently damaged by over-frequent use and, as a result, the force of the audit process is being weakened.

This argument leads to the idea of a return to relying on the words of the 1948



Mr Tom Watts, Chairman of the Accounting Standards Committee: still working on a review of standards.

Companies Act that accounts should show a "true and fair view", that auditing is an art and not a science, and that the auditor should use his discretion to account his charge according to judgement and experience, using standards as a guideline but not as a definition of the only available truth.

There are clear attractions in this point of view. Standards can create as great distortions as the lack of them, but they can also be a great strength for an auditor hard pressed by a dominant chief executive determined to have his accounts expressed in the best available light.

Rigid standards that cannot be enforced, however, are the worst of all worlds. What accountants, industry and the City must decide, and the argument is far from over, is whether the answer is rigidity and enforcement which on the present showing almost certainly means government involvement, or self regulation and flexibility.

It seemed unfair and beside the point while the outcome of Ralco's bid was undecided, but the way in which the famous Decca company has finally lost its independence does raise in sharp focus a recurrent question of public interest.

The question is simply to whom is the controlling management of a company responsible. No doubt the outcome is sensible. If past experience is any guide, the shareholders of a company being taken over will have done better in the short and medium term by the deal than the shareholders of Ralco and the managerial and other problems of the merger will have been underestimated and will rumble on for a decade or more.

All that, however, though doubtless more important, is beside the point raised here; namely, in what sense is it right that the strategic decisions about the future of such a company as Decca should for years now have been taken by the septuagenarian, Sir Edward Lewis.

In reaching his decisions over the years to resist any takeover of Decca and now in accepting a takeover of the company, in what sense and to whom did he consider that he was discharging his responsibility as the overwhelming dominant force in the company's management?

The whole problem, of course, arises from the way in which the framework of the limited liability company has failed to change as rapidly

in the last hundred years as have other aspects of our society.

The model of nineteenth century capitalism and the great expansion of industry and commerce that happened with it was based on the acceptance that a company was owned by its shareholders; that it should be run in their enlightened self-interest; and that those who controlled it should be recognized as shareholders, even if the reality of the way in which limited companies are run bears little relationship to it.

Of course, the model and the reality often and increasingly diverged. But company law to this day is based on that total primacy of the interests of shareholders, even if the reality of the way in which limited companies are run bears little relationship to it.

In fact, today, almost the only companies run substantially on the basis of the law and the old model are those which are wholly owned subsidiaries. In such companies the shareholders usually are not in doubt that they are responsible in a real and direct way for their stewardship to their shareholders.

The case of Decca is complicated by the fact that it was (and was both the creation of one man, Sir Edward Lewis, it was floated in 1928. The controlling interest was bought at the bottom of the stock market depression by Sir Edward, then a young stockbroker.

With his steady nerve it survived until the war and with the military development of radar it became the company we know today. If ever a man could with justifiable pride say that a company was "his", it has been Sir Edward Lewis and Decca.

But at some stage in the development and growth of a company like Decca it becomes necessary to ask the question whether such a personal relationship to a company is appropriate. By the end Decca was a group with an annual turnover of not far short of £200m and employed some 12,000 people at home and overseas. That is too important a part of the British economy to be regarded as the disposable personal property of one individual.

Last year the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators published a series of papers on this question of how and to whom company managements should be responsible. In some ways the most interesting was the one by John Jackson, a director of Philips, the message was directly relevant to the case of Decca.

His purpose was to argue in favour of the idea of supervisory boards in public companies. His reasoning was that there are two distinct functions in the running of a company—the management of it; and the preservation of "the legitimate interests of people who have a relationship with the enterprise". These are two distinct functions and it is better for corporate structures to recognize that they are different.

Those with a legitimate interest in a company are many and various; its shareholders, its employees, the localities where it operates, the consumer, the public at large and so on. Yet balancing out these interests is not an appropriate part of the direct job of managing a company properly.

On the other hand, under existing arrangements most managements are in practice not responsible to anyone but themselves. For in the case of most companies, as Mr Jackson says, directors do not treat shareholders as if they were owners of the enterprise. "Owners of rights in relation to the enterprise—yes, but owners of the enterprise—no."

It cannot be good discipline for anybody, no matter how talented, to be in effect responsible to no one but himself. In private affairs it may be so. But the direction of important public companies is not a private affair, even when voting control is secured in a single pair of hands. It is healthy to leave it to management to manage, but unhealthy if they are responsible only to an apathetic annual general meeting. Mr Jackson's suggestion is that with a supervisory board, which must have no normal managerial functions, a structure is created to which the management of a company must give account of its stewardship. In the case of Decca the effective executive authority and responsibility for supervising the management were in the same hands. The result has been the extinction of an independent Decca.

US budget: no help in the fight against inflation

Washington

The budget of the United States is an unwelcome beast, prone to get fat swiftly and in constant need of a trainer determined to force it on to a trim and better diet.

President Carter's talents as a trainer are once again found wanting. The budget books for the 1981 fiscal year, starting on October 1, are unbalanced and another deficit is in prospect.

The new budget will not help the fight against inflation. It will add to credit market pressures and it could launch a new era of big increases in public spending.

President Lyndon Johnson used deficit spending to fund the Vietnam war. Now President Carter, prompted by new United States-Soviet tensions, looks as if he too is taking this path to finance sharp military spending increases. President Johnson's strategy is partly to blame for today's rampant inflation, which is now running at more than 13 per cent.

Americans have come to equate budget deficits with a lack of governmental resolution in combating inflation. President Carter has helped to foster this belief. He committed, during the 1976 election campaign, to balance the budget. He has failed to keep his word and his four deficits make an estimated combined deficit total of about \$140,000m.

The Federal Reserve Board's moderately tight policies are by themselves insufficient to boost public confidence

in the dollar. Companies Act that accounts should show a "true and fair view", that auditing is an art and not a science, and that the auditor should use his discretion to account his charge according to judgement and experience, using standards as a guideline but not as a definition of the only available truth.

There are clear attractions in this point of view. Standards can create as great distortions as the lack of them, but they can also be a great strength for an auditor hard pressed by a dominant chief executive determined to have his accounts expressed in the best available light.

Rigid standards that cannot be enforced, however, are the worst of all worlds. What accountants, industry and the City must decide, and the argument is far from over, is whether the answer is rigidity and enforcement which on the present showing almost certainly means government involvement, or self regulation and flexibility.

in United States price stability.

The central bank needs the support of a restrictive fiscal policy. Such support is not in evidence in the new budget programme so the value of the dollar at home and abroad is all the more difficult.

The \$400,000m of budget deficits run up between 1961 and 1980 have contributed to the unhealthy inflation which America faces. The remedy must in part include fiscal prudence and it could launch a new era of big increases in public spending.

It is justified on the basis of the forecasts from the White House. These foresee a 1 per

Frank Vogl

cent real gdp decline during the 1980 calendar year and a 2.3 per cent gain in 1981. They also estimate 10.4 per cent inflation this year and 8.6 per cent next year.

The White House has resisted the temptation to paint in brighter colours than seem realistic as the election approaches. Mr James McIntyre, the budget office director, "could be said to be the price we pay for honesty." If we predicted a 6.75 per cent unemployment rate (instead of close to 7.5 per cent), then we could have shown a balanced, or almost a balanced budget.

But given the problem of inflation, the Administration should have been willing to accept still more sluggish growth in 1981 and it should have secured at least a balanced budget. Even the projected 1981 deficit of close to \$16,000m may prove to be too optimistic

an estimate. The Administration all too often underestimates budget deficits—last year the President's estimate was off by more than \$10,000m.

The increased tensions between the United States and Soviet Union may well add to outlays on defence, foreign assistance and agriculture. A deeper recession than anticipated will almost certainly lead to tax cuts and bigger unemployment relief programmes which will add more red ink to the balance sheet. Added to that Congress is likely to complete legislation providing at least \$1,000m less in windfall profits taxes from oil companies than the new budget suggests.

The Government's borrowing requirements are far greater than the budget figures indicate. So-called "off-budget" expenses, mainly government loans for such purposes as rural electrification, students and hospitals, are estimated to total over \$100m in the next fiscal year. The White House predicts the total public sector borrowing requirement will be \$44,300m for this calendar year and \$33,300m for 1981.

This borrowing will add to credit market pressures, to the central bank's monetary tightening difficulties and to the problem of curbing public spending in future years.

Interest being paid by the Government on three-month Treasury bills is even higher than the 1979 average of 10 per cent compared with an average of 5.8 per cent between 1970 and 1978, or just 4 per cent in the 1960s and 2 per cent in the 1950s.

The picture of public spending for the years ahead is one characterized by a boldly upward pointing curve, coloured in red. President Carter's administrative reforms and reorganization schemes, from

Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Energy, has a tough couple of days ahead of him. Today he faces the House of Commons in a full scale debate on gas prices. Tomorrow he appears before the newly formed parliamentary Committee for Energy to be questioned on his December policy statement and its implications for the nuclear programme.

The gas debate will, no doubt, engender much heat and not a little bad will as the members of all parties vie with each other to be seen either as champions of the consumer or as fervent energy conservationists.

The meeting with the select committee will be a different, and arguably far more crucial, affair. Mr Howell has a series of interlinked problems: first, despite a decade of wrangling over which type of reactor the United Kingdom should choose for its future programme, that choice has not finally been made; second, because of a dearth of new power station orders the nuclear industry is in disarray; and finally because of the ever present fear that public opinion may turn against nuclear power the Government wishes to keep its statements on nuclear policy in as gentle and low a key as possible.

The select committee for its part will want to probe deeply, assessing whether the intended programme of building twelve or so power stations in ten years is possible, whether it is big enough, whether indeed it is necessary, and whether the Government is going to choose the best technology.

For the initial six weeks the committee has fixed itself a series of hearings which will provide widely conflicting evidence both on whether and how the nuclear programme should be conducted. Mr Howell will be followed next week by the Central Electricity Generating Board. Then comes the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority. After that, two hearings will be devoted to independent scientists and another will provide a platform for representatives of the nuclear lobby.

announced in December, is a framework around which future decisions can be built; it reaffirms the stance of the previous Labour government which committed the nuclear industry

to building two British-designed second generation gas-cooled reactors, one at Heysham and the other at Torness, and, in 1982, to build the first American-designed pressurized water reactor (PWR), to "establish an option" for an alternative system.

The CEGB are strong supporters of the PWR system, and, once planning permission has been granted and a safety case accepted by the authorities, the corporation is likely to order more PWR stations.

But first the safety case must be approved and a public inquiry must be held. There is, therefore the chance that the PWR may never be built in this country.

Uncertainty thus remains over the future of the ordering programme. That uncertainty, in turn, has led its way into the nuclear industry which splits roughly into builders of components for the second generation advanced gas cooled reactors (AGRs) and supporters of the PWR.

All major nuclear component makers are shareholders in the government-sponsored monopoly contractor, the National Nuclear Corporation. Mr Howell has promised its reorganization but first he must choose a new chairman and so far that has proved extremely difficult to find a man acceptable to all sides.

Some nuclear engineers have got to the point where they care less which type of reactor is built, so long as building goes ahead.

The select committee is certain to hear evidence that Britain is settling for the wrong design, or the wrong licensee, or the wrong system. Some scientists may argue that the present type of reactor is doomed because of a potential uranium shortage developing within the next 40 years—the expected life time of a station—and that Britain should move



Mr James McIntyre, White House budget office director: "The deficit in 1981 could be said to be the price we pay for honesty."

"zero-based budgeting" to civil service restructuring, are making only a small dent on the charts.

Meanwhile, big new spending plans are on the drawing board: the new cold war demands bigger defence outlays; fighting the energy crisis, which the President once claimed is "the moral equivalent of war", calls for more spending; national health plans and welfare reforms all suggest big price tags.

Inflation is not just boosting tax receipts, but boosting the fortunes of those politicians demanding tax cuts. Periodic tax cuts to offset the effects of inflation are a constant theme.

The only counterweight to the pressures for real expenditure increases seems to be the windfall profits tax being enacted by Congress. This is expected to raise revenue of \$100m in 1980 and \$227,000m. But it will actually cut some income and corporation taxes and its net return to the Treasury may well be little more than \$100,000,000m this decade.

For most of the last three decades American governments

have sought to fulfil the dreams of those who have elected them and provide, at the same time, substantial security for the western world.

President Carter has sought more of the same of his predecessors to turn the tide, but he has not yet gone far enough.

Once again the budget is set to be in deficit and once again there is little evidence to suggest that future budgets will be any different. Meanwhile the Government continues to make significant demands on the credit markets at a time of record level interest rates, and the pace of inflation seems to be accelerating.

To produce a tighter fiscal policy would have involved large political risks for President Carter. But that is what is needed. The President proposes, the Congress disposes.

Grumbling months of debate will now begin on Capitol Hill, ending no later than September 25 with a final congressional budget resolution. There is always a chance, albeit a slight one, that the Congressmen will prove to be better inflation fighters than the man in the Oval Office.

Nuclear test for Mr Howell

straight to the commercial development and exploitation of the plutonium-based fast breeder reactor on the design of the prototype developed at Dounreay in Scotland.

That is almost certainly too big a technical jump. A paper published by the Science Policy Research Unit, however, casts doubt on the wisdom of basing a programme on PWR's on grounds of performance and suggests developing an alternative reactor system based on the Candu reactors pioneered in Canada.

Ironically the Candu, which performed the best of all reactors in the paper's survey of worldwide nuclear plant performance, uses a similar technology as the steam generating heavy water reactor, which has on time become Britain's chosen development, only to be killed off.

The gas-cooled reactors come out poorly from the survey, largely because of the performance of the Magnox reactors, made to the British Magnox reactors owing to component defects. The sample of Candu reactors, however, is small and the advanced gas cooled reactors have not been running for a sufficient length of time to show their performance to be fairly compared with other machines.

Comparison between different makes of PWR produces some disturbing factors. Medium size units of 400 to 800 megawatts perform best although the tendency has been to order larger units. Britain could order accordingly.

The most worrying aspect of the report is that the chosen licensee, Westinghouse, to whom letters of intent are shortly expected to be sent does not come out as top manufacturer. This honour is held by the West German group Kraftwerk Union. The authors naturally suggest this group should be chosen as the licensee of plants to be built in Britain.

The Select Committee for Energy should not want for questions.

*Worldwide Nuclear-Plant Performance by John Surrey and Steve Thomas. Science Policy Research Unit occasional paper February 1980 (briefer version in Futures, February 1980, published by IPC Business Press).

Nicholas Hirst

Business Diary: Missing the Airbus • What price Mugabe?

Executives of the British aircraft equipment and aviation electronics industries are marked at the way contracts are allegedly being given to their French rivals by Airbus Industrie, the French/West German consortium which makes the European Airbus.

Britain has a fifth stake at government level in Airbus, but the equipment people here reckon they are playing up more than a tenth of the business.

Contracts, for which the United Kingdom tender beat the French hands down on price and quality, went nonetheless to the French industry, and one British company had to buy into its French competitor to get in on the Airbus action.

The French knife is twisted in the British wound by the thought that much of the expertise across the Channel came from this side during joint programmes like Concorde and Jaguar.

The French and the Germans point out that they carried the enormous expense of the Airbus programme during the ten years between 1968, when Britain bailed out on the grounds that the sales prospects were poor, and 1978 when we came back in at government level.

Around 400 Airbuses have been sold, and last year the Airbus family cornered 40 per cent of the world's wide-bodied airliner sales.

A colleague, concerned that a piece of urgent mail, posted in America well before Christmas, had apparently disappeared en route, discovered the reason when it arrived yesterday. It had been sent by surface mail—from the New York office of Pan-Am.

Robert Mugabe is bad news for the Rhodesian stock market. Despite the black nationalist's deliberately moderate tone since his return to Salisbury—no mass nationalizations, no seizure of efficient white farms—the size of the rally that greeted him on Sunday set off a bout of selling.

The market had been fairly bullish until then. Prices had risen strongly at the Lancaster House conference approached its denouement: there has been some flattening out since, more due to a lack of buyers than to a surplus of sellers.

"I think everyone is being a little cautious at the moment," says Peter Humphrey (right), chairman of the Zimbabwe Rhodesia Stock Exchange. "People want to see what sort of government emerges after next month's elections before they start investing again."

The Rhodesian market must be one of the most politically orientated in the world with

Fans of the western High Noon will remember that the sheriff, Gary Cooper, suffered from executive stress over the decision whether or not to leave town.

To stay, as management writers would say, meant he could continue "his town". To environment of a lessening of executive stress in that Grace Kelly would stop nagging him, as well as a furthering of his career in that Sheb Wooley would not plug him.

In the end, it turned out rather well, even though the sheriff did not consult or heed his wife. He stayed and shot up the opposition.

Life is not quite that simple in the pictures, outlined in The



Photograph by Brian Harris. Peter Humphrey: Mugabe's stock.

prices going up and down according to the progress of the various settlements attempted since UDI.

Executive Gypsy, the fifteenth month by Cooper's near-name sake, Hollywood-born Gary Cooper—but it can be grim.

Employers, says Professor Cooper of Manchester University, should rethink the "one-move syndrome" whereby a manager can afford to turn down one geographical move without risking his or her career.

His researches satisfy him that there has been a rapid increase in the number of marriages where both husband and wife is a manager since the British Institute of Management's survey, published 18 months ago said that 13 per cent of men refusing to move did so because "it would spoil an executive wife's chances."

British personnel depart-

Its low point was April 1978 following the March 3 internal agreement which saw blacks in power. The market's capitalization stood at around Rhodesia \$600m (about £400m). Now it is heading for twice as much.

There are only six stock brokers in the country (plus a few more who only 17 stock exchange members).

There is a trading floor but apart from the morning and afternoon fixings, brokers work from their offices by telephone. "It's rather like the London Metal Exchange, but on a smaller scale," says Humphrey.

Humphrey is reasonably optimistic about the future. He forecasts new issues after the election to add to the 61 companies already quoted. The last new listing was four years ago although you can find there were more than 20 new issues during the boom post-UDI period, between 1967 and 1976.

ments, says Cooper, should emulate those in the United States and Sweden who consult the family of an executive before proposing to move him or her out of town.

Other recommendations: look for promotion opportunities nearer the manager's home, and consider more carefully the need for a transfer at all.

Domestic stress, he says, can be the last straw to middle managers already plagued by new technology, industrial relations and a stagnant economy.

Although born in America, Cooper took his PhD at Leeds University and has spent most of his life in Britain. He holds the Chair of Management Educational Methods at Manchester. *Macmillan (£12).

● Air Europe, the newish holiday airline, is playing a plane-making game that seems to me to be fraught with risks of feminine ire.

AE, which began flying last May, owns three Boeing 737-200 jets which carry holidaymakers from Gatwick both for the majority shareholder, Itas, and for other package tour operators.

Chairman Harry Goodman named the first two Adam and Eve, because they were the first two people, and the third was called after his wife. No problem so far.

Two more 737s are due to be delivered in March and these, I learn, will be called Roma, after the wife of chief executive Martin O'Regan, and Sandy, after Lady Sandra, wife of director-shareholder Sir James Hill. Fine for Sir James and O'Regan.

But what of a sixth plane to be delivered next year? There is still the wife of another shareholder-director to be honoured. He is Errol Crossley, but his wife is also a Sandra. Furthermore, it is a full name to name an aircraft after the chief stewardess, Renée Manchester.

They could, of course, call the seventh airliner after either lady, but that is likely to be a fat plane—a 747 Jumbo.

Rediffusion Simulation, part of the Rediffusion TV rental group, is making hay out of the disaster business with computerized training devices simulating oil rigs, liquid gas plants and now, after the Three-Mile Island/China Syndrome controversy, a nuclear power plant. No word anything to prepare one for Jane Fonda, though.

Ross Davies

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Exchange to act in accounts disputes

By Alison Mitchell
Companies which seriously flout accountancy standards could face a suspension of their listing in the stock market.

Although the Stock Exchange has in the past emphasized that it will not police the rules and regulations of other bodies, it has agreed that it would be prepared to take this step under certain circumstances.

Mr George Nissen, deputy chairman of the council, said yesterday that if shareholders were having the wool pulled over their eyes, the listing of the company concerned could be suspended. However, he added that most auditors' qualifications did not fall into this area.

Mr Nissen has already written to Mr Tom Watts, chairman of the Accounting Standards Committee, offering the assistance of the Stock Exchange on any panel formed to adjudicate on accounting disputes. This review group, which

will also involve the Council for the Securities Industries, is likely to be set up within the next three months.

It would review any cases of disagreement between auditors and their clients and make public their decisions. It is thought that in most cases, publication of the report would be enough to discipline either side and only in extreme cases would further action be necessary.

The panel could, however, recommend a change in the accounting standard, bring the auditors before their disciplinary committees or ask the Stock Exchange for help. Although the Stock Exchange has agreed in principle to take the necessary action, it does see its role as adjudicator.

The Quotations Department, which already looks at company accounts, would act as the initial point of contact, so there would be no need to set up an independent monitoring committee.

Furness Withy stake

Mr Frank Warby, until recently chief executive of Euro-cannadian Shipholdings, who is making his home in Britain, has not yet given up his struggle to win representation in the Furness, Withy boardroom.

His private family company, Dolphin Investments has sold 52,500 shares, taking the share stake down to 10.99 per cent where it is only just above the 10 per cent stipulated by the Monopolies Commission.

He is now asking the Minister of State at the Department of Trade for further clarification of the position regarding the voting rights attached to the shares. The Department of Trade's position remains that the voting rights will be frozen if they are used to gain access to the Furness boardroom. However, Dolphin does not plan to dispose of the bulk of the shareholding "except at acceptable price levels".

\$2.26m sale surplus for Associated Newspapers

By Our Financial Staff
Associated Newspapers Group, which includes the Daily Mail and the London Evening News, showed a £2.26m surplus on the sale of a leasehold property on the South Bank of the Thames last year.

The sale was completed after the group had obtained planning permission for the site. Lord Rothermere, Associated's chairman, said in the annual report.

Reorganization at the Evening News which included a reduction in manning levels, cost the group £4.4m during the 21 months to September 30, 1979, but Lord Rothermere pointed out that the changes were carried out with virtually no disruption. "In the recent troubled industrial climate of the industry both the Evening News and the Daily Mail have suffered little loss of production."

Earnings from the Argyll oil fields have considerably improved and three new wells now account for 51 per cent of total production, while realized prices increased by 50 per cent during the 18 months under review. The oil exploration programme is continuing although drilling has been disappointing. Provincial newspaper advertising showed some decline towards the end of last September and Lord Rothermere warned that there could be a further falling off.

Stock markets

Oils make the running as gold slips again with a price drop of \$25 to \$635

Equities began the new account on a firm, but quiet note yesterday, as the troubles on the industrial front continued to cast a shadow.

Oils were a bright spot, aided by the enthusiasm surrounding the major United States giants which are currently mid-way through their reporting season.

As a result, most of the majors were marked higher at the resumption of dealings yesterday morning and interest soon spilled over into second-liners and North Sea shares.

Duple Industries rose 1p to 25p. Buyers expect profits this year to next August to reach nearly £5m against £3.7m last time. The recent chairman's statement was confident, and the group is on the acquisition trail.

Gold, on the other hand, were mostly easier as the bullion price retreated once again, dropping \$25 to \$635 an ounce.

Glits continued to experience tight trading, while dealers still tried to overcome the indigestion brought about by the two new top stocks last week.

In longs, gains of about £3 to £4 were reported, while the shorter end, falls of about £1 were noted after some fluctuating business of little volume.

Prices after hours tended to

drift lower on the worsening situation in the steel dispute and reports that the water authority workers had rejected their latest offer. Therefore, the FT Index closed only 1.2 up at 432.6, after touching its high point of 4.0 up at 11 am.

Leading industrials were mostly firmer where changed, as in the case of ICI, reporting next month and with oil interests in the Ninian Field, 4p higher at 380p. Fisons, however, slipped 2p to 287p while Reed International were nervous ahead of today's third-quarter figures, easing 1p to 194p.

BAT, reporting on Wednesday, improved 5p to 270p. Among companies reporting, Ellis & Everard jumped 9p to 130p after a 53 per cent profits

expansion at the half-way stage, while Braid Group, with full-year's figures, finished unchanged at 32p as did Neepsend at 47p.

Government approval for a rail-link under the channel boosted Channel Tunnel 44p to 142p in a thin market.

Bid speculation, in spite of denials, lifted Appleyard a further 4p to 63p and speculative buying provided Serck with a 6p rise at 45p.

Profit-taking clipped 5p from Sotheby Park Barnett at 465p. Dowty, with figures due next week, climbed 3p to 177p.

Shares of Decca continued to move further in line with Rascal's offer, rising 15p to 375p in the ordinary and 11p to 355p in the "A". Rascal

also continued to draw interest, rising 4p to 231p, but Muthhead slipped 12p to 193p after its recent profits setback.

Oils were much firmer than of late, with investment interest spilling over from the United States and encouraged by the news that Saudi Arabia had increased its price of oil to \$26 a barrel. Among the majors BP rose 6p to 342p and the "new" for which the remaining cash is to be paid on February 6, climbed 1p to 135p. 15p short of its issue price, Shell was 8p stronger at 350p and Ultramar advanced 14p to 448p.

Siebens was still sought, following recent bid speculation, and leapt a further 40p to 690p and CCP North Sea to 690p.

Spurred by the Saudi price increase, just about every oil share went ahead yesterday. Among the buyers were brokers Scott, Giff, Hancock. This oil specialist will be holding an oil seminar at London's Tower hotel on Thursday.

was another firm spot, improving 37p to 325p. Gulf Stream Resources leapt 20p to 255p in anticipation of a drilling report. Among shares with North Sea interests, IC Gas jumped 18p to 683p and Yule Catto 10p to 128p.

Fears of another fierce price war began following an announcement by Associated Dairies, 6p lower at 182p and reporting this week, that it intended to reduce prices of over 300 of its lines. This prompted falls of 13p in Sainsbury at 289p and 2p in Tesco at 68p.

Press comment gave rubbers a further boost with London and Sumatra 13p higher at 413p and RME 11p better at 194p. Bank shares were mixed, and properties closed mixed. Equity turnover on January 25 was £134,229m (17,958 bargain), according to the Exchange Telegraph, were RIT, Burnham, Premier, Shell, Consolidated Gold Fields, GEC, Rascal, Lasham, BP, ICI, Associated Dairies and Mitchell Courts.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
Int or Fin	£m	£m	per share	pease	date	total
Brentnall Board (F)	2.5(4.5)	1.2b(0.5b)	11.91b(6.85b)	—	—	—(0.57)
Braid Group (F)	41.2(30.9)	0.7(0.9)	11.7(13.8)	1.2(1.0)	21/3	1.7(1.5)
Cairty & New Taxis (I)	—	0.25(0.29)	—	0.2(0.2)	—	—(0.1)
Canors (I)	9.0(8.15)	0.15(0.34)	1.94(1.65)	0.82(0.82)	1/5	—(2.29)
Ellis & Everard (I)	13.9(10.5)	0.83(0.54)	12.4(8.2)	2.5(2.25)	22/2	—(8.35)
Estates Prop Inv (I)	—	0.91(0.68)	—	0.5(—)	—	—(2.75)
Estates Prop Inv (F)	33.6(22.7)	0.15(0.07)	3.5(2.54)	0.5(—)	—	—
Midland Ties (I)	17.4(11.5)	0.21(0.17)	3.0(2.61)	2.45(2.01)	3/3	—
Neepsend (I)	—	1.3(0.72)	1.0(0.9)	1.0(0.9)	—	—
Stirling Knit Gr (I)	4.9(5.0)	0.24(0.20)	4.18(3.5)	0.35(0.36)	31/3	—
Uni Brit Secs (I)	—	2.9(1.8)	—	2.25(1.4)	—	—

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pre-tax profits. Elsewhere in Business News are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.25. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. a=gross income, b=loss.

KNOCKING BRITISH INDUSTRY JUST ISN'T CRICKET.



Commonplace though it may be to dismiss the British economy as having a lack-lustre performance, there are many examples of continuing success which deserve recognition.

For example, financial services, energy, data communication, leisure and retailing are all areas in which Britain still excels. As do many leading British industrial companies, amongst whom Hanson Trust's success story would be hard to better. At September 30, 1979, the pre-tax profit of Hanson Trust rose for the sixteenth successive year, increasing by 19% over 1978, to a record £31.2 million with cash resources of £43 million.

OPENING THE INNINGS

Hanson Trust has been built up carefully to reflect a business philosophy that has not changed in sixteen years. It was our intention to build on a good existing business, continue its growth and enlarge it when we were sure that its success merited support.

At the same time, as innovators, we have sought planned investment in new companies which meet our growth criteria. This willingness of Hanson Trust to make bold moves into new areas is well known and widely supported.

WHY WE SCORE HEAVILY

In the UK, Hanson Trust has built up a solid foundation of growth in basic straightforward industries. Butterley Building Materials, a market leader in facing bricks, is one excellent example of this commitment to basic industry. Adding this to the very best in management standards, applied throughout all our companies, has made Hanson Trust the outstandingly successful entity that it is today.

BUILDING A LONG INNINGS

Hanson Trust places great value on management professionalism. To succeed, a company needs excellent management, our commitment to which is consistently relentless.

Consistency, then, has always been a Hanson Trust byword. Consistent in aim, consistent in good management, consistent in development and consistent in growth of profit and earnings per share, year by year.

However, our success in Britain is only half the Hanson Trust story. For the full picture, and to see just what we have achieved in the USA since we went there in 1973, please send for a copy of our Annual Report to Hanson Trust, FREEPOST, London SW3 1BR (no stamp required) or telephone: (01) 589 7070.

After all, to ignore the other half of our success story just wouldn't be cricket.

Hanson Trust
The industrial management company
where people are as valued as assets.

Poor Cavalier car supplies hit Braid's second half

By Our Financial Staff
Supply problems with the Cavalier car left a second-half shortfall at vehicle distributors Braid Group.

In the 12 months to September 30, the group made a pre-tax profit of £740,000—some 18 per cent down on the previous year's £900,000. Turnover rose by a third from £31m to £41m, leaving pre-tax margins a point tighter at 1.8 per cent. The main problem for the group was an inability to get cars and parts from their main supplier, Vauxhall, and the group report that another 1,000 shares are trading at 2.1 times fully-taxed earnings and yield almost 8 per cent.

Vauxhall, which began in September, has hit profits in the current year, and although there are some signs of recovery now, this side of the group has been hit badly.

Although borrowings, as a percentage of shareholders' funds, amounted to more than 80 per cent last year, the group are looking around for other Ford dealerships in an attempt to reduce dependence on one supplier. A final dividend of 1.7p gross gives a full-year total of 2.5p, an increase of 6 per cent on the previous year. Unchanged at 32p yesterday, the shares are trading at 2.1 times fully-taxed earnings and yield almost 8 per cent.

Ellis and Everard pleases with 53 pc interim rise

By Our Financial Staff
Ellis and Everard, the industrial chemicals distributor, exceeded expectations by boosting pre-tax profits 53 per cent at the half-way stage. The share price rose 7p to 130p after the announcement.

On turnover up by 32 per cent to £13.9m, pre-tax profits jumped from £546,000 to £835,000 in the six months to October 31, 1979.

Most of the improvement came from the chemical division where sales, at £13.5m, were 28 per cent ahead of the previous year. The swimming-pool division, formed after an acquisition last year, made a small contribution and turnover

amounted to £401,000 for the six months.

The interim dividend has been raised from 3.35p gross to 3.57p.

But Mr Anthony Everard, chairman, said the second half is unlikely to show a similar level of profitability, although the group is already set to make more than £1m profit this year.

"The economy is stagnant and there are fewer working days, because of holidays, available to us." Margins are also under pressure because of overseas competition and the increased prices of raw materials, while the swimming pool division operates in a seasonal market, he said.

RANTLIDGE

Private investment company Rantledge, which took over the troubled Nationwide Leisure, is in convene an extraordinary meeting in a bid to remove the existing chairman and two of his fellow directors. Rantledge is to appoint its nominees to the board. It is thought that the dispute stems from a failure to agree on compensation terms for the existing board members.

LONRHO

Mr Graham Ferguson-Lacey, chairman of National Carbonising, says he is negotiating to buy 19 per cent of Lonrho from Gulf Fisheries of Kuwait. At today's price it is worth £40.5m and would be bought on behalf of a Lacey-controlled private United States company, if terms are agreed.

NEEPSEND

On sales up from £11.5m to £17.4m, trading profits of Neepsend almost doubled to £1.39m (against £722,000) in the half-year to September 30. Earnings per share, 3.05p (1.48p). Interim payment raised from 1.31p to 1.45p gross. Chairman, Mr Stanley Speight, is confident that, subject to any dramatic change in industrial situation, level of profitability will be maintained in second half.

CAPARO

Single Holdings has sold its Indian tea interests to Caparo for £1.5m cash. Caparo has also bought Empire Plantations & Investments for about £1.5m. Caparo will hold 58.84 per cent of Empire.

LOUIS C. EDWARDS

At the extraordinary general meeting of Louis Edwards the resolutions to approve the acquisition of Gordon Bleu Freer-Food Centres and to increase the authorized capital of Edwards were passed and the acquisition of Gordon Bleu has been completed. The merger discussions with Morgan Edwards are continuing and may lead to Louis Edwards making a share offer for Morgan Edwards. A further announcement will be made by the middle of February.

Briefly

STIRLING KNITTING

Although turnover of Stirling Knitting Group slipped from £3m to £2.94m in the half-year to September 30, pre-tax profits rose from £204,000 to £243,000. Interim payment, 0.5p gross (same).

ESTATES PROPERTY

Pre-tax income of Estates Property Investment Co rose from £685,000 to £914,000 in the half-year to October 31. Interim payment, gross, up from 2.33p to 3.37p.

F. AND C. EUROTRUST

Mr John Tounge and Mr Andy Allan have joined the board of Tyne Tees Television. Mr Michael E. Kelsey has been appointed managing director of Arrow-Hart (Europe) replacing Mr Allan E. Flatman who has been made chairman of the company until his retirement in September 1980.

Mr T. Keely has been appointed a director of Birchwood Concrete Products and of its wholly owned subsidiary company, Birchwood Concrete (Scotland).

Mr E. W. Penherton has been elected to the board of directors of Pilmarc.

Mr C. G. Rober has been appointed secretary of John Brown and Company.

Business appointments

New MD named at 3M

Mr Robert C. Olney is the new managing director of 3M United Kingdom. He succeeds Mr Donn Osmon who has taken up a new assignment within the 3M International organization.

Mr E. E. Smith and Mr T. G. Harle have been appointed directors of J & A Scrimgeour.

Mr D. S. Hay, an agricultural division deputy chairman, has become ICI's general manager, commercial, with effect from March 1, 1980. He succeeds Mr R. C. Hampel whose appointment as chairman of paints division was announced recently.

Mr D. W. Gamlin has been appointed a director of Nobel's Explosives Company.

Mr Roger W. Brittain becomes a new director of Touche, Remnant & Co.

made general sales director of Newall Group Sales. He retains his position as sales and marketing director of Elliott Machine Tools, another company within B. Elliott Group.

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مكازم الأصيل

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Int Systems and Visco in tentative settlement

International Controls Corporation of America has agreed to compromise some of its differences with fugitive financier Mr Robert L. Visco.

The holding company's plan is subject to approval by the Federal Court, which is certain to weigh comments by the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

While the SEC's stance is not yet known, the SEC has steadfastly maintained that nobody should deal with the devil and that Visco is the devil," said Mr William Ragals, Jr, vice-president, legal, of International Controls.

The corporation, which has interests in electrical products and other areas, formerly was the base for a financial empire from which Mr Visco is formerly accused of "looting" as much as \$240m.

After gaining control of the company in the early 1960s Mr Visco used it to take over IOS Ltd, a manager of numerous offshore mutual funds and other financial institutions, most of which are at present being liquidated.

Mr Visco, who left the United States in 1973 and is at present in the Bahamas, is the target of at least five criminal indictments and various civil actions.

In papers filed last Friday with the United States Court for the Southern District of New York, International Controls outlined a compromise negotiated with a Visco-controlled company, Visco and Company.

Wall Street

Oil, defence and corn sweetener issues led stock prices narrowly higher in heavy trading, as the New York Stock Exchange composite index closed at a record high of 65.96, topping the previous record set in January 1973.

The Dow Jones Industrial average rose 2.39 to 878.50, as turnover quickened to 3,620,000 shares.

The NYSE began publishing the index in 1956 with an initial value of 30 and has calculated it back to 1939.

Experts said President Carter's budget message to Congress, which confirmed investors' expectations of increased defence spending.

The heavy turnover was indicative of continued institutional demand for equities.

Gold closes down

New York Jan 28. GOLD closed in a range \$625 to \$628, after opening at \$625.50.

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PERSONAL CHOICE

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davall

TELEVISION

BBC 1

9.35 am For Schools, Colleges. 9.35 am Out of the Past (war series). 9.58 Maths-in-a-Box (part 3). 10.16 Look and Read. 10.38 Resource Unit 11-13 English (play for discussion). 11.00 Watch (Robinson Crusoe). 11.17 Television Club (a school in time). 11.38 Design by Fire Anne. 11.40 News. 12.05 General Studies: what use are degrees? Closedown at 12.30. 12.45 pm News and weather. 1.00 Pebble Mill at One: Your legal, financial and medical questions answered by a trio of experts. 1.45 Trumpet: The story of Mr Platt and the Painter (r). 2.00 You and Me: For the very young. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (r). 2.14 For Schools, Colleges. 2.14 Encounter: Germany (school). 2.30 Julius Caesar: part 3 of the BBC TV production with Richard O'Kelly, Keith Mitchell. Closedown at 3.05. 3.25 Declassified: Welsh lesson. 3.55 Play School: Dr. Seuss's story Great Day for Up. Illustrations by Quentin Blake. 4.20 Yogi Bear: Cartoon. Space Bear (r). 4.35 Jackanory: Geoffrey Rinehill continues reading Geoffrey Kilner's Joe Burroughs' Progress.

BBC 2

10.05 am Sisters and Brothers: For trade unionists (r). Closedown at 10.30. 11.00 Play School: Same as BBC 1. 11.25 Write Away: How to spell those tricky words in that letter applying for a job. 11.40 It's a Great Life: How older people can throw a new light on the present. Closedown at 12.05. 12.30 pm Dilemmas: Professor Bernard Williams poses the question: are animals our slaves? (r). 1.00 Illusions of Reality: How British newsreels in the 1930s treated the rearmament issue (r). 1.30 The Living City: Sociology series. Social deviants (r). Closedown at 3.55.

THAMES

9.30 am For Schools. Experiment: Biology. 9.47 Seeing and Doing (circles). 10.04 Reading with Lenny. 10.16 Work (theory of location). 10.35 English (authorship). 11.05 Locomotors (maims). 11.22 Good Health. 11.39 The Land (Brecon Beacons). 12.00 Simon in the Land of Chalk Drawings. Two stories told by Bernard Cribbins (r). 12.10 pm Pinks: Monster in the Cellar? Barley Hare story. 12.30 The Sullivans: Tales of an Australian family. Why John Sullivan (Andrew McFarlane) takes to drink. 1.00 News. 1.29 Thames News. 1.30 Airport Chaplain. Scottish TV series with Ronald Fraser in the title role. Today: the pilot's dilemma over a Belfast flight. 1.40 After Noon Plus: Billy Graham interview. Live from Oxford. 2.45 Wilde Alliance: Comedy with Julia Foster. 3.00 The Stride. "Bearbeaks" in the house of mystery. 3.45 Three Little Words: Harlech TV quiz game with Don Moss. 4.15 Ce Together: Pop music show with The Tigers, Zaine Griff, The Jags and The Buggles.

ITV

4.40 Animal Magic: With Johnny Morris. Gemel the baby cat and the results of the "unusual pet" contest. The winner, Jeremy Cade, from Torquay, includes among his pets an alligator lizard, a snake and a red-sided African zebra. 5.05 John Craven's Newsround: Junior newsreel which adults will find Anne. 5.15 Grange Hill: Comprehensive school serial. An immigrant father thinks the school is exerting a bad influence on his daughter. 5.40 News: Peter Woods. 5.55 Nationwide. 6.50 Robble: Profile of Dame Josephine Baker, the 120-year-old woman-president of the British Medical Association. She is 67, and an international authority on obstetrics and gynaecology. 7.20 The Rockford Files: A former prostitute (Rita Moreno), now reformed, falls in love with Rockford (James Garner). But his father (Noah Beery Jr) is unhappy about it. 8.10 Decision: A Talent to Succeed. The talent is a singer, Gill Cumming, a former school teacher, is now making a name for herself on the concert platform. John Pilmat presents the programme. (See Personal Choice.)

ITV

5.40 Harold Lloyd: Scenes from his great comedy silent films, including Hay There (about movie-making) and Safety Last (the human fly on the skyscraper's tail). 6.05 That's the Way to Do It: Final part of the Punch and Judy story. With Chris Harris. 6.35 The World About Us: Two black professors from Harvard University travel into the Surinam jungle of South America in search of their heritage. They find the Djuka tribe, descendants of runaway West African slaves. 7.25 News: with sub-titles for the deaf and hearing. 7.40 Cricket: Australia v West Indies. Highlights from the third Test, from Adelaide. 8.10 Company and Co: Samrday.

ITV

6.35 Crossroads: motel serial. 7.00 Charlie's Angels: Three pretty girls on the trail of assorted criminals. 8.00 Armchair Thriller: Dead Man's Kick. Part one of a novel adventure yarn, from Southern TV. A chief petty officer (Larry Lamb) has a theory about a dead man's master-alarm, but is told by his captain not to stir up trouble. 8.30 Robin's Nest: Comedies about bistro owners (Richard O'Sullivan, Tony Watt). More about that awaited baby. 9.00 Hollywood: Thames Television's ambitious series about the silent film era. Tonight: the impact of the Great War on the film city. 10.00 News. 10.30 The Evening Standard Drama Awards: From the Olivier Theatre. In the presence of Princess Margaret. The best this, that and the other of 1979. Introductions are by Diana Rigg and Alec McCowen. 11.30 Barnaby Jones: A young heiress' life is in danger. 11.45 am Close: Poems read by the Menulhus, Yehudi and his wife Diana.

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Radio 4

6.00 am News Briefing. 6.10 Farming Today. 6.30 Today. 7.00 News. 7.30, 8.30 Headlines. 8.35 Yesterday in Parliament. 9.00 News. 9.05 Tuesday Call. 10.05 In Britain Now. 10.10 Daily Service. 10.45 The Wooden Horse (7). 11.00 News. 11.05 Play: Cross Current. 11.35 Local Edition. 12.00 News. 12.02 pm You and Yours. 12.20 Down Your Way. 12.55 Weather. 1.00 The World at One. 1.40 The Archers. 2.00 News. 2.02 Woman's Hour. 3.00 News. 3.02 Listen With Mother. 3.15 Sons and Lovers (1). 4.10 Bookshelf. 4.45 Story: Madame Zilensky and the King of Finland. 5.55 Weather. 6.00 News. 6.30 Just a Minute. 7.00 News. 7.05 The Archers. 7.20 The Restless Years (2). 8.05 Touch. 8.10 The Manipulators. 8.15 From Our Own Correspondent. 9.30 Kaleidoscope. 10.00 The World Tonight. 10.30 The Hornblower Story. 11.00 A Book at Bedtime. 11.15 Financial World Tonight. 11.30 Today in Parliament. 12.00 News. 12.15 am-12.23 Weather.

Radio 3

5.30 am-7.35 (now only from 7.00) Crocker: Australia v West Indies. 6.55-7.00 Weather. 7.00 (vhr only) News. 7.05 (vhr only until 7.35) Records: Locke, Handel, Telemann. 8.00 News. 8.05 Records: Rossini, Mozart, Weber (Sym 1). 9.00 News. 9.05 Week's Composer: Beethoven (incl Pao Coo - Schmandel). 10.00 The Trio-Sonata. 11.00 Strings: Holst, Bridge. 11.35 Piano (M. Jones). Mendelssohn: Poulenc, Beethoven, Szymanowski, J. Strauss. 12.15 pm BBC Concert Orchestra: Lawrence (live from Guildhall, London). 1.00 News. 1.05 Six Continents: new news. 1.20 BBCO, pt 2: Dvorak (Sym 9). 2.05 Tenor, guitar: Dodgson, Britten. 2.35 In the Shadows of the Great: Robbins London on Leopold and Anton Kozelch. 3.25 Records: Bartok (Str Quartet 2), Liszt (Sym 1). 4.35 Jazz Today. 4.55 News. 5.00 Music for early evening. 5.15 Violin, piano: Holmes/Fenby; Delius (Son 2). 5.30 Play: The Bagman or the Impromptu of Muswell Hill, by John Arden. 5.55 BBCSO, Pritchard, pt 1: Rawsthorne, Goehr (Little Sym). 6.30 News. 6.35 BBCSO, Pritchard, pt 2: Rawsthorne, Goehr (Little Sym). 6.55 BBCSO, Pritchard, pt 3: Rawsthorne, Goehr (Little Sym). 7.00 News. 7.05 BBCSO, Pritchard, pt 4: Rawsthorne, Goehr (Little Sym). 7.30 News. 7.35 BBCSO, Pritchard, pt 5: Rawsthorne, Goehr (Little Sym). 7.55 BBCSO, Pritchard, pt 6: Rawsthorne, Goehr (Little Sym). 8.00 News. 8.05 BBCSO, Pritchard, pt 7: Rawsthorne, Goehr (Little Sym). 8.30 News. 8.35 BBCSO, 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